

Occasional Papers
ON THE
ASSIENTO,
AND THE
AFFAIRS
OF
JAMAICA.

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1716.

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ORIGINAL COPY

OF THE

ASSOCIATION

OF THE

ATLANTIC

TO

AMERICA

AND THE

WEST INDIES

AND THE

AFRICA

AND THE

ASIA

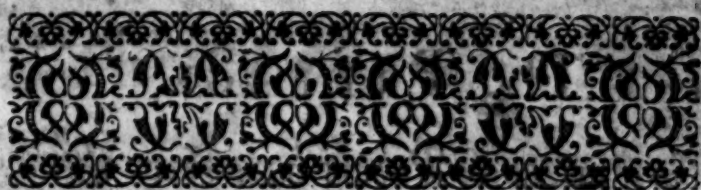
AND THE

AMERICA

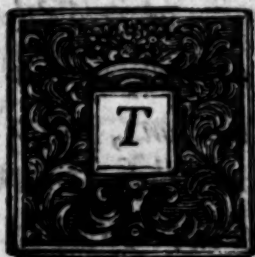
AND THE

AFRICA

AND THE



THE PREFACE.



THE following Pieces were wrote partly at the Desire of some Gentlemen, and for the Information of others, and at their several Requests were made publick at different Times, from the Service they conceived might accrue to the Plantations thereby, especially Jamaica, and the Kingdom in general. Whether the End propos'd has been or will be answer'd, I can't presume to say; only thus far, That some Persons of Character have been pleased to

ii The PREFACE.

assure me, these Papers have given them (as they have found many others) some just and true Notions of the Nature of the Assiento Contract, and the Advantages and Decay of the Trade of Jamaica and the Plantations, and some Thoughts of the Proceedings of the Assemblies and the publick Transactions of Jamaica for some Years past, different from what they had long entertain'd from the Accounts they met with, from the Conversation of some Persons, who pretended to be much concern'd for that Island, and to represent the Affairs thereof.

There are many Reasons which have induc'd me to collect these Pieces into a Volume: Some of which are; First, That they may, when sent to Jamaica, be the securer and better bandied from Neighbour to Neighbour. Secondly, That they may more certainly remain a Monument of my poor Endeavours to promote the Interest and Pro-

The PREFACE. iii

Prosperity of that Island, consequently rendering its Mother Country Service.

Thirdly, That they may be the Means of giving Young Gentlemen grown and growing up, other Notions than are imbibed by too many of their Countrymen, as to the Island's Independency, The Power of Assemblies &c. and, Fourthly, That future Assemblies may avoid Proceeding in so unprecedented and unwarrantable a Manner as some late Ones, not only to the Hazard of the Island itself, but of that Constitution it happily enjoys.

This is all I have to say more than to desire, That when any one reads these Occasional Papers, he will lay aside all Party Prejudices, and that no Person will declare any one of them contain Matter false in general, without first shewing, those they shall make such Declaration to, some particular Passages that are so; which I thought
not

iv The PREFACE.

not improper here to mention, having been credibly informed this has been done by certain Gentlemen, who I only wish would relate the Affairs and Transactions of Jamaica with the same Impartiality, and disinterested Views, as in the subsequent Pages by

WILLIAM WOOD.

London, October
the 1st, 1716.



TI.



TITLES

OF THE

Following PAPERS.

1. **T**HE *Assiento* Contract consider'd ; as also the Advantages and Decay of the Trade of *Jamaica* and the Plantations ; with the Causes and Consequences thereof. In several Letters to a Member of Parliament.

2. A True State of Mr. *Aylmer's* Brief Narrative, in a Letter to ———.

3. A View of the Proceedings of the Assemblies of *Jamaica* for some Years past ; with some Considerations on the present State of that Island. In several Papers.

4. The Representation and Memorial of the Council of the Island of *Jamaica*, to the Right Honourable the Lords Com-

TITLES &c.

Commissioners for Trade and Plantations; together with the Addresses of the Governour and Council and Town of Kingston, and Association of the principal Inhabitants. With a Preface.

Following Papers.



4. The Representation and Memorial of the Council of the Island of Jamaica to the Right Honourable the Lords Com-

missions of the Council of the Island of Jamaica for some Years past; with some Considerations on the present state of that Island. In several Papers.

3. A View of the Proceedings of the Assemblies of the Council of the Island of Jamaica for some Years past; with some Considerations on the present state of that Island. In several Papers.

2. A Narrative of the Proceedings of the Council of the Island of Jamaica for some Years past; with some Considerations on the present state of that Island. In several Papers.

T H E
Assiento Contract
CONSIDER'D.

AS ALSO,
The Advantages and Decay
OF THE
Trade of *Jamaica* and the Plantations,
WITH THE
CAUSES and CONSEQUENCES thereof.

In several LETTERS to a Member
of Parliament.

*The French have dealt with us as if they thought the
Genius of France had got a perfect Mastery over
the Genius of England, otherwise they would not
have so Imposed upon us in matters of this Nature;
which tho' our Court would not see, the People
must needs feel, and where the Legislature was cer-
tain to be Alarm'd, and at last to Interpose.*

Doct. Davenant.

L O N D O N,
Printed: And Sold by Ferd. Burleigh in Amen-
Corner. 1714. (Price 6d.)

THE
HISTORICAL
AND
STATISTICAL
ACCOUNT
OF THE
COUNTY OF
DUBLIN
IN THE
YEAR 1800
BY
JOHN R. COOKE
OF THE
COUNTY OF
DUBLIN

The County of Dublin, which is one of the most fertile and populous in the Kingdom, is situated on the south-western coast of Ireland, and is bounded by the City of Dublin on the north, and by the County of Wick on the east. It is divided into four parishes, and contains a large number of towns and villages. The population of the County in the year 1800 was estimated at 150,000 persons.

LONDON:
Printed by J. JOHNSON, in Pall-mall.

THE P R E F A C E.

THESE Letters were occasionally wrote for the Information of a Gentleman in the present House of Commons, and are made publick at his Instance, to shew the great Concern the Plantations (especially the Island of *Jamaica*) are to *Great-Britain* to encourage and preserve, and to undeceive many People, who are carried away with a Notion of great Advantages, never before enjoy'd, accruing to this Kingdom, by erecting the *South-Sea Company*, and their Trading on the foot of the *Assiento Contract*.

If upon Perusal, any Person should think the Service of the Island in *Jamaica*, is the View and Intent of writing them, he is not much mistaken, for it must be confess'd the dismal Consequences, unavoidably falling upon that Island from the *Assiento Contract*, and the *French* being left with the share they have these late Years possess'd of *Hispaniola*, with the Liberty they now enjoy of Trading in the *South-Seas*, were the first Motive that occasion'd the mention of some things thereupon in Discourse, which afterwards were thought proper to be set in a fuller light, and explain'd by the following Letters, not altogether for the Advantage and Interest of *Jamaica*, but for the general Advantage and Interest of *Great-Britain*, by
A pre.

The P R E F A C E.

preserving a very beneficial Trade we enjoy'd, in lieu of attempting one precarious in its Nature, a certain loss to its Undertakers, and ruinous to the most gainful Branches of our Trade; for should the *English* be dispossest'd of *Jamaica*, which they may soon be, if that Trade be ruin'd, however some People may believe, we shall not only lose an Island of very great Consequence to us in point of Trade, but must never afterwards expect to be formidable by our Naval Force, in that part of the World, as we have been for many Years past by means of that Island; for, as * *Dr. Davenant* has justly observ'd, 'The loss of *Jamaica* must probably be follow'd with the Ruin of our Interest in *America*.

In these Letters the Dangers arising to *Jamaica*, and other our Sugar Colonies, are shewn really to proceed from the Encrease of the *French* Power and Settlements in their Islands in *America*, especially on *Hispaniola*; and 'twere heartily to be wish'd, the Consequences thereof, to the Trade and Navigation of this Kingdom, were but more seriously attended to, and consider'd.

It has been long since remark'd, that the Breed of Seamen, with the Encrease and Encouragement of the Navigation of this Kingdom, does chiefly depend on our Plantation Trade, and *Newfoundland* Fishery; therefore their present State and Condition deserve the immediate Consideration of our best Patriots, for preventing the Decay, Loss, or Destruction of the Trade and Maritime Strength of *Great-Britain*.

The Merchants and Planters trading to, and residing in *Virginia* and *Maryland*, have laid their Case before the Parliament this present Sessions, wherein

* *His Discourse on Trade and publick Revenue.*

The P R E F A C E.

wherein they set forth, ' That the high Custom of
' Sixpence and one third of a Penny *per* Pound on
' Tobacco, for the home Consumption, has, by
' many Years Experience, been found much more
' than it can bear; the Planters and Merchants Ad-
' venturers, having often lost fifty *per Cent*, and
' sometimes more than their Capital, the Produce
' not being sufficient to defray the Custom, Freight,
' and other Charges, so that without some timely
' Relief, this Trade must inevitably be lost to *Great-
' Britain*.

' As the distance of our *British* Plantations is an
' Improvement of our Navigation, so of Necessity
' it becomes a Charge to our Tobacco, and has
' given great Encouragement to the Planting of
' vast Quantities of that Commodity in *Holland*,
' *Germany*, &c. to the Improvement of their Lands,
' and Benefit of their Proprietors, who supply
' many parts of *Europe*, to the Decay of our Plan-
' tations, Trade and Navigation.

' And unless such Encouragement be given to
' the Exporters of Tobacco, as may enable them
' to render it very cheap to foreign Markets, and
' thereby in great measure to prevent the Planting
' in *Europe*, this beneficial Trade will in a few
' Years be irretrievably lost, and our Nation oblig'd
' to pay Specie for Linen, and all other the Ma-
' nufactures of *Holland*, *Germany*, *Swedeland*, &c.
' that us'd to be purchas'd in those Parts, with the
' Proceed of our Plantation Tobacco.

' The Discouragements of late Years, have al-
' ready ruin'd several considerable Merchants,
' oblig'd others to decline trading in Tobacco,
' and forc'd many of the Planters in *Virginia* and
' *Maryland* upon Manufactures, wherein they are
' already such Proficients, that several Counties
' make Shoes, Stockins, Hats, Linen and Woollen,

The P R E F A C E.

not only for their own, but the use of their Neighbours; others sow Corn, which have been sent from the Plantations in great Quantities, to several parts of *Europe*; and Necessity will put them actually upon many Expedients, to become less dependant on this Kingdom.

And they thus conclude, ' The melancholy State of our Tobacco Plantation is such, that for several Years past, the Exports of our Woollen and other Manufactures to *Virginia* and *Maryland* are diminish'd at least one half. the Traders thereto greatly Impoverish'd, the Planters by Necessity falling into Manufactures, the Navigation of this Kingdom consequently lessen'd, and notwithstanding the several high Duties laid on Tobacco, the Revenue hath not been thereby augmented.

This is the melancholy State of the Tobacco Trade, and as it is presum'd the Danger of our losing the Sugar Trade, is in some measure shewn in these Letters; and the Danger of its Loss is so very apparent, that an Author quoted in these Letters has set it out in a full Light, altho' that Gentleman would infer the Cause of it to be different from what are here represented, but from the Dedication of his Book, and particular Sense, in distinguishing the present M——y for their Experience and Knowledge in Trade, it is fully evident, that his Book was rather calculated for a private, than the publick Interest.

But let us observe what his Country Man of *Barbadoes* says, in a Speech to the Council and general Assembly of that Island, as Printed in the *Post-Boy*, the 24th Instant, ' Our Neighbour Colonies so long kept by Foreign Fears from Improving, are now encouraging Trade, encreasing their People, enlarging their Plantations, and cultivating their Lands; their Fertile Soil yields them many Crops

The P R E F A C E.

‘ Crops from one Planting; ours requires the utmost Art, Industry, and Manure, and that too annually.

And as to the *Newfoundland* Fishery, the Decrease thereof, and its Causes, have been shewn in many Pamphlets lately writ, but in none with more Clearness than the *British Merchant, or Commerce preserv'd*, particularly in the Papers No. 71. and 81. in the latter of which 'tis said ‘ the *French* are now so much our Rivals in this Trade, and are increased to such a prodigious degree, that they employ yearly from *St. Malo, Glanville, Rochell, St. Martins, Isle of Robe, Bayonne, St. John de Luce, Sibour, &c.* to carry on their Fishery on the great Banks of *Newfoundland*, and on the Coasts of that Island, that is; in their wet and dry Fish, upwards of four hundred Sail of Ships.

‘ They are indeed (says he in another part of this Paper) to deliver us up the Possession of *Placentia*, and some other Place in *Newfoundland*; but then they have taken care to have a better Place yielded to them, in lieu thereof, with this extraordinary Favour to them, more than to us, that they have the Liberty granted them to frequent our Islands of *Newfoundland*, and erect Stages, &c. thereon for drying and curing their Fish, but we have not the Privilege allowed us of doing the same on any of their Islands, or on the Island of *Cape Breton*, which they have express Permission granted them to fortifie as they please; thus they are our Rivals in the Fishery by our own Consent, which is the more wonderful, in that it is owing to this Fishery that they dared to contend for the Mastery at Sea with the Maritime Powers of *England* and *Holland* united; 'tis true, the *English* and *Dutch* are most frequently call'd

‘ the

The P R E F A C E.

‘ the Maritime Powers, but if I were not afraid
‘ the *Mercator* would fall upon me for discovering
‘ our Weakness, I would beg you to tell him I
‘ think it a Jest to appropriate the Name of Ma-
‘ ritime Powers to *Great Britain* and *Holland* ex-
‘ clusive of *France*, when we consider what a fi-
‘ gure that Nation made at Sea before the Battle
‘ of *la Hogue* in 1692. Can we then think that a
‘ few Years of Peace, with such a Fishery, and such
‘ Conditions of Commerce as were granted to
‘ *France* by the late Treaty, will not soon enable
‘ her to contend again with our United Fleets ?

The present State of our Tobacco and Sugar Trade, and *Newfoundland* Fishery being such as represented, must give us a very sad Prospect, since 'tis by our Sugar and Tobacco Colonies we have such a Ballance in Trade on our side with *Holland*, *Hamburg*, &c. and from our *Newfoundland* Fishery, very great Sums have been Annually brought into this Kingdom from *Spain*, *Portugal* and *Italy*; for our other Colonies, as *New England*, *New York*, &c. being chiefly dependant on our Sugar Settlements to take off their Product, and having not wherewithal to answer the Exports to them from *Great Britain*, are only valuable as they bear relation to such Colonies as are furnished by them, which must cease on the decay of the Trade from whence it arises.

Thus sad and melancholy is our present Condition as to these Branches of our Trade and Navigation; for confirming of which, and several other Matters in the following Letters concerning our Trade in the *West Indies*, exclusive of the present designed one, upon the Foot of the *Assiento* Contract, shall conclude with an Extract of a Letter from a Person who has lived in *Cadiz* and *Jamaica* for above twenty Years past,

Extract

The P R E F A C E.

Extract of a Letter from *Jamaica* dated the 13th
of April, 1714.

THUS you see how they (the French) endeavour to streighten all Trade in general, and giving such Tracks of Land (on Hispaniola) and not letting any one enjoy more than what he Plants and Manures, they'll become in few Years very powerful; nay, they don't stick to say, but in less than ten Years they will have the whole Island of Hispaniola.

Did Spain but clear their Eyes as they ought, a War by them should be immediately commenced, or else the Spaniards are gone in these Parts; and upon the first Quarrel we ever have with them (the French) this Island the next. For as the French are endeavouring to settle and bring a Number of Men among them, our Gentry are for sending all away; this is the Cunning of our Inhabitants.

I can't help remarking to you the little Notice England takes in protecting its Trade: Did they but consider the Game France has been playing these seven Years past, none but Men void of Natural Thought would have suffered the Continuance thereof since the Cessation of Arms, from that time we might have prevented it, if it could not before; but our great Sufferings will be from what has been done since, and no body trouble themselves about it; it's their being suffered to send Ships upon Ships into the South Seas, and supplying the Kingdoms of Peru and Mexico with such quantities of Goods that 'twill be seven Years to consume them; by which Scheme they have anticipated the Trade of our Nation, Holland, and the Kingdom of Old Spain for five Years; for I can assure you it will be at least that time before any quantity of Goods of general Species can be in Demand, or give Encouragement to any Trader of Spanish, English and
Dutch

THE PREFACE.

Dutch Nation to send Goods to the Kingdoms of Peru or Mexico, for why should any one think those People so foolish to buy together ten Suits of Cloaths, when one will serve them? Thus it's with them, whatever Goods come must lie till those in the Country are consumed; it's this vast supply of Goods by the South Seas to the Kingdoms of Peru and Mexico, that has kept all the Silver and Gold from coming into the North, and occasioned the Total Ruin of Old Spain, and more particularly their Navigation, and utterly destroyed for the present those Cities, and the Settlements on the North side: Nay, they will not let us alone in the East-Indies, for I can assure you three of their Ships have took in Mony, and went to China, and so returned to Lima and other places with rich India Cargoes.

Thus they attack our Trade in all its Parts, and when have glutted every Branch, and sucked the Marrow of Trade to procure a Peace, feed us with the Notion of giving us a South Sea Company, without letting us know the Advantages of such a Trade now brought to as low an Ebb as ever any Trade was brought to, having near Twenty two Sail of Ships six Months since in the South Seas.

If this is not speedily remedied I fear a worse Consequence, therefore it behoves all Europe to engage in it; I have ventured to write thus to you, and to let you see what little Advantages the South Sea Company can expect from their Trade.

THE

T H E

Assiento Contract Considered.

A S A L S O,

*The Advantages and Decay of the Trade of
Jamaica, and the Plantations, with the
Causes and Consequences thereof.*In several *Letters* to a Member of Parliament.

S I R,

January 20, 1712-13.

I Shall give you the best Information I can, in the time you allow me for it, of the Advantage the Island of *Jamaica* is to *Great Britain*, both as to its Situation for Trade with the *Spaniards*; or, in case of a War with them, as well as the Value it produceth, and its being made capable of producing Yearly; and also my Apprehension, that it will not be long of any Consequence to *Great Britain*, either in regard to the Trade with the *Spaniards*, or its own Produce, and the Danger we are in of losing it whenever there is another War with *France*.

And first, *Jamaica* is situated in the Latitude of 17 and 18, and hath for its Neighbours, viz. 35 Leagues to the Eastward and Windward the Island of *Hispaniola*; about 25 Leagues to the Northward the Island of *Cuba*; and about 150 Leagues to the Southward is the Main of *New*

B

Spain,

Spain, or the North side of the Kingdom of *Peru*, whereupon are *Cartagene* and *Portobello*, the Port that the Galleons come to; and about 350 Leagues to the Westward and Leeward is *la Vera Cruz*, which is the Port or chief Place for Trade with the Kingdom of *Mexico* on that side, as the above Places are for the Kingdom of *Peru*.

The Trade with the *Spaniards* from *Jamaica* (tho' Collusive) has been very considerable; and 'tis certain for seven Years past (about which time it commenced *de Novo*) the *Spaniards* have been supplied from thence, one Year with another, with three or four thousand Negroes; in return for which, and for Flower, Woollen and other Goods, there has been received of them in Gold and Silver, and the Produce of *New Spain*, 200000 *l.* or 250000 *l.* Yearly; and as the Produce of the Island it self for some Years past has not been less in Value than 500000 *l.* a Year; so 'tis capable of producing three times what it does at present, were but some Laws made to prevent such Quantities of Land being Monopolized by particular Persons, and obliging such Persons, as have very great Runns of Land, and will neither settle nor sell the same, that they do the one or the other, and to give Encouragement for white People to come and reside in the Island.

As to the Trade from *Jamaica* with the *Spaniards*, I fear from the Power the *French King* has over King *Philip*, and the growing as well as the present Strength of the *French*; as also the Encouragement they have given them by King *Philip* in these Parts, it must be soon at an end. 'Tis probable *Great Britain* may have the *Affiento*, or the supplying the *Spaniards* with Negroes, if there can be found any Persons, incorporated or not,

not, so inconsiderate, as to accept it on the Terms her Majesty has acquainted her Parliament.

'Tis not much more than Thirty Years, that the only Settlement the *French* were possessed of in the *West Indies* was *Martinico*, since this they have settled *Guardalupe*, and increased their Settlements on *Hispaniola* ten to one; and as they have so increased them during two Wars, what may it not be presum'd they will do on a Peace, and the Encouragement they have given them for it, by the Duty laid upon all clay'd or refin'd Sugar imported into *France*, which Duty effectually prohibits, or prevents either us or the *Dutch* (who have vast Quantities from *England* Yearly) from sending any thither, and must consequently cause a present Encouragement to, and Increase of the *French* Plantations; and as they have within these four or five Years beat us almost out of our Indigo Trade, so it can't be a much longer time before our Condition will be the same with our Sugar Trade.

In 1709 and 1710, the then Ministry had it motion'd to, and it was intended by them, that at the General Treaty of Peace it should be demanded for the *French* to restore to the *Spaniards* such part as they possessed of the Island of *Hispaniola*; but instead of that there are good Reasons to believe, that the *French* are confirmed in their Possession by the Cession of the whole Island granted by King *Philip* to his Grandfather.

As it is very much to be feared, from what I have said, that the Plantations in general will suffer, and be of little Consequence to *Great Britain* in a few Years, so the Island of *Jamaica*, of such Concern to it in regard to its Situation or Nearness to *New Spain*, cannot whenever we have a Rupture with *France*, without a vast Charge, as well as great Fore-
B 2
fight,

fight, remain long in the Hands or Possession of the Subjects of it, since in twenty four Hours Sail the *French* from any part of *Hispaniola* can be upon it; 'tis needless to say more, as to the Danger *Jamaica* is in; then observe, that in the Year 1693 the Inhabitants of *Hispaniola* form'd an Expedition at their own Charge against it, and over-run and destroyed the greatest part of it, though it must be own'd that the Year before the Island had suffered a very great Loss by the Earthquake in its Inhabitants, and the Sicknes that followed; yet notwithstanding on enquiring into the State and Condition of the Island at that time, 'twill be found to have had a much greater Number of White Men, or Inhabitants upon it, than since; and it is certain, and must be lamented, that at this present the Number of them is less than they have been for 40 Years past.

The Collectors Demand of Duties on Prize Goods brought into the Island occasioned several thousand Sea-faring Men to leave it about three Years ago; and the Proceedings of the Admiral or Commander in Chief in those Parts has also induc'd considerable Numbers to do the same, and have in many Respects been of very great Prejudice to the Trade and Interest of the Island.

Now as the other Islands belonging to *Great Britain* in the *West Indies* have little or no Trade, so 'tis their Produce only makes them valuable; but the Island of *Jamaica* is not only valuable for its Produce, but also for its Situation for Trade with the *Spaniards*; and in Case of a War to obstruct or annoy with the Queens Ships or Privateers from thence, not only the *French* Trade to and from *Hispaniola* but theirs, the *Spaniards*, or any other Nations Trade with *New Spain* on the North side.

'Tis

'Tis necessary to observe, to make good more fully what I premised in the beginning, that all Ships or Vessels bound to *Jamaica* from any part of *Europe*, *Africa* or *America*, make the Island of *Hispaniola*, and come down on the South side of it, and that all Ships or Vessels in their return from *Jamaica* to *Great Britain*, or any other part, either turn up (after clear of the East end of it) on the North side of *Hispaniola*, and South side of *Cuba*, or take their Passage through the Golph of *Florida*, and pass by, and generally go in sight of the *Havana* on *Cuba*, which is just at the opening of the said Golph; and as Monsieur *Cro-sat* has by his late Grant from the *French King*, plainly *Florida* included and comprehended, so 'tis most certain, that whoever are in Possession of such an Extent of Land as seems granted him, will be Master of the Canal of *Babama*, and so Neighbouring to the Island of *Cuba*, that it will not be difficult to hinder the Passage of any Ships or Vessels that way, as well as it will not from *Hispaniola*, to hinder them either coming or going to *Jamaica*, or returning from thence the other Passage above-mentioned.

I should proceed, but that I fear I have already tired you, and that you will repent you gave me the Invitation: However, I hope what I have said is enough for you to infer Consequences, and that it will occasion you and other Gentlemen to prevent them whatever you can.

I am,

S I R, &c.

B 3

S I R,

S I R,

April 20, 1713.

HAVING in a former Letter given you my Thoughts both of the Advantage and Consequence of the Island *Jamaica* to *Great-Britain*, as well as the Danger we are in of losing it whenever we have another War with *France*, and now taking the *Assiento*, or Contract, of allowing the Subjects of *Great-Britain* the liberty of importing Negroes into the *Spanish West-Indies* on the Foot thereof, to be very Disadvantageous to the said Island, I shall give you my Thoughts thereupon, and show, that the said Contract will prove a Loss even to them who shall accept it.

As I have before acquainted you, that the private Trade from *Jamaica* to the Coast of *New Spain*, has been very considerable, and brought more Money into her Majesty's Dominions in a Year, than the Contract can, admitting the 4800 Negroes, or more, should be taken off yearly by the *Spaniards*, so 'tis to be feared, that this Contract will soon put an end to the said Trade; and that by it numbers of Merchants, or Factors, and Sea-faring Men, will be prevented going to *Jamaica*, as well as many now Inhabitants of and belonging to the Island, will be obliged to leave it; and that as much less of the Manufactures of *Great-Britain*, &c. and Provisions from *Ireland* will be sent to the Island; so the quantity of Shipping that went yearly to it, will consequently lessen and fall short; whereby the Planter that can't Ship the Produce of his Plantation to *Great-Britain*, will be under a Necessity to sell it at a much lower Price, and he that can Ship it, must give a much higher Freight. That these and many more will be the Consequences to *Jamaica* from this

Con:

Contract is undeniable, unless those, who 'tis said are to have it, will not make use of the Power with the Government, &c (stipulated in the said Contract, to prevent the Subjects of *Great-Britain*, and the Plantations, from importing Negroes, under Penalty of Forfeiture) or by their Agents, (as 'tis to be feared 'twill be in their Power) obstruct or hinder the Trade they may or can otherwise have for Merchandize with the *Spaniards*.

That the Contract for supplying the *Spaniards* with Negroes, has prov'd a loss to former *Affientists*, has been acknowledg'd by the Contractors themselves; but to make that good, we have this Contract in the 42d Article, wherein 'tis stipulated. ' That considering the Losses which former *Affientists* have sustained, the King has been pleas'd to allow to the Company of this *Affientists* a Ship of 500 Tuns to Trade withal yearly to the *West-Indies*, during the 30 Years of this Contract, on condition they shall not attempt any unlawful Trade. But surely this Permission is not look'd upon, or esteem'd by any Person that has consider'd the Country, &c. where the Goods are to be sent, and the uncertainty of there being sold, to be any Advantage to the *Affientists*.

But on the contrary, a certain Loss to them, for by the said Article 'tis stipulated, ' That the Goods shall lye in Warehouses 'till the Arrival of the *Flota's* and *Galleons*, and be sold only at the time of the Fair,' which is generally but once in three Years, and sometimes longer.

We are told in the Preamble to this Contract, that it was given to her Majesty, in Condescension and Complacency to her, as the Draught was put into King *Philip's* Hands by Don *Manuel Menasses Gilligan*, at which I am not a little surpriz'd, since by the said Contract I will take upon me to

say (tho' by the Reservation to King *Philip* in the 4th Article, as well as in the Hints, as to the Repayment of the 200000 pieces of Eight to be advanced him in other Articles, it be taken for granted, it will be a very profitable thing for the *Assentists*, and has been given out and asserted in several Addresses to her Majesty, to be of very great Benefit and Consideration to *Great-Britain*) that not any Body of her Majesty's Subjects will be Gainers, or the Kingdom have any new Advantage, or Supply of Money accrue to Her thereby.

I must confess, I think all that the Persons to whom the settling of a Contract was left to, had to have advised, was for us to require and demand of King *Philip*, (which surely he would have agreed to in Condescension and Complacency to our giving him *Spain* and the *Indies*.)

That the *British* Nation should have been the only Nation or People that should have supplied the *Spanish West-Indies* with Negroes, and have liberty of doing it at what Ports and Places, and in such number as they should think fit, paying the Duties required; hereby many Inconveniences, as to Rules, Restrictions, and being liable on every occasion to an Arbitrary Power in so distant a Country, as well as a Partnership with a King, &c. would have been avoided, and no Subject of *Great-Britain*, or the Plantations, excluded this Trade, and consequently the said Trade enlarged, and more diffusive among her Majesty's Subjects, as well as of more Advantage to *Great-Britain*.

Now on the Foot of this Contract, as the *Assentists* are to have Princes for their Parties, they are to advance in consideration of having half of the Profits (if any be made) of the said Trade, to King *Philip* about 50000*l.* to be repaid at the Expiration of the Contract, but no Provision is made how

or

or in what manner, as also his Share for the carrying on of the said Trade. Besides, the *Affientists* are, from *March* 1712, to pay yearly the Duties of 33 pieces of Eight, and one third on 4000 Negroes at *Madrid*. The whole on these several Heads will amount to a considerable Sum of Money; and may it not justly be feared that the *Spaniards*, since 'tis no settled Price they are to give by the Contract, will often delay buying, in order to fall the Price; and that in the several hundred of Negroes that may be brought at one Shipping, or in one short time, they will take only such as are upon Examination the Choice of the Number; and further, 'tis a hardship upon the *Affientists* to pay Custom annually for such a number of Negroes, tho' they do not find it for their Interest to send or import them; or they are not able in the Course of the Trade to do it; as a much greater hardship to pay the Duties in 15 Days after the Arrival of the Negroes on the Coast of *New Spain*, when many may dye before they are or can be sold, especially considering what Numbers must be sickly if the Voyage be long.

In my Opinion, as this Contract bears hard upon the *Affientists*, so it seems calculated to prohibit all our other Trade with the *Spaniards* in the *West-Indies*, but on the footing thereof, or in the manner therein prescribed, and to hinder many useful Discoveries in point of enlarging our Trade, as also to be an effectual Bar to the Settlements and Commerce of the *South-Sea* Company into the *South-Seas*; from which, ever since the present Lord Treasurer's opening the Project in Parliament for paying the publick Debts, we have been told and made to believe (as by several Addresses to the Queen may be seen) such wonderful Advantages, as to Trade, would accrue to the Kingdom.

That

That we are thus frustrated of the Settlements we were encouraged to expect from the *Spanish* Dominions in the *Indies*; as well as in our Trade thither, I take to be very hard, and an indifferent Compensation for the Favour we have done the House of *Bourbon*, in not continuing the War with our Allies, when 'twas certainly in our Power; with them, to have recovered the whole *Spanish* Monarchy out of their Hands, and to have had the Trade of the *Spanish* West-Indies to our selves, by obliging the *French* to have stipulated, as in the Preliminary in 1709. that to wit, *particularly and especially France shall never become possessed of the Spanish West-Indies, nor send Ships thither to exercise Commerce under any Pretext whatsoever.*

I am, Sir, yours, &c.

S I R,

Nov. 10, 1713.

IN Answer to yours of the 2d Instant, I assure you my Apprehensions and Thoughts continue the same, and I am the more confirm'd in them by what has occurred to me since; I am truly concern'd to hear that some Managers of the *South-Sea* Company advise and declare themselves so warmly for the Prevention and Ruin of the private Trade carried on from the Island of *Jamaica* in the *West-Indies*, with the *Spaniards* on the *North* Coast of *New Spain*; I heartily wish these Gentlemen, or the *Assentists*, (which is a thing to be feared) do not by their powerful Interest find means of doing it, since 'tis so necessary for the Interest of them; however fatal to the Interest of *Jamaica*, as well as of *Great-Britain*, *Ireland*, and the Northern Colonies of *America*.

It

It highly deserves the Consideration of all her Majesty's Subjects, and especially the Lords of Trade and Plantations, (whose Places should give them the occasion of acquainting themselves with its true Interest,) of what Consequence the Encouragement and Preservation the Island of *Jamaica* is to *Great-Britain*, &c. and the Danger there will be of its falling into the Hands of the *French* upon a Rupture with that Nation, (more especially if the Trade above-mentioned be ruined, which will greatly diminish its Strength of People) or from the Force of its Neighbours on *Hispaniola*; an Island, besides its largeness to any of the *French* or *English* ones in those Parts, already formidable, and daily increasing in People and in new Settlements.

Besides what I have already taken notice to you, of what Concern this Island is to *Great-Britain*, in respect to its Situation, yearly Produce in Sugar, Indigo, &c. and the Mony brought into her Majesty's Dominions annually by their Trade from thence (tho' Collusive) with the *Spaniards*: 'Tis also of Concern to it, not only as it gives Encouragement by its Trade to *New Spain*, to the Navigation and Produce of our Northern Colonies; particularly *New York* and *Pensilvania*, but as that Trade finds Employment for a great number of Vessels and Sea-faring Men at and from that Island, wherein consists the best Strength of it.

Shall then the Interest and Prosperity of so valuable, beneficial, and even necessary an Island to *Great-Britain*, and other her Majesty's Dominions, have no regard shewn to it? And shall a certain advantageous Trade to the Subjects of *Great-Britain* have an End put to it, to make room for an uncertain one, and one Disadvantageous to the Undertakers; for 'tis not to be denied, but the
private

private Trade above-mentioned, has brought more Trade into her Majesty's Dominions for many Years past, than can be brought into them on the foot of the *Affiento* Contract: And that also such Trade has been more profitable to the private Traders or Merchants, than the said Contract will be to the *South-Sea* Company or *Affientists*. But this I must own, that the Treasury of *Spain* will be advanced by the Trading on the foot of the Contract, more than by the private Trade, which perhaps is the true Reason for the Warmth of some Men for its being destroyed.

Now considering this, and that by the *Affiento* Contract the *South-Sea* Company, or *Affientists*, are not to Trade into the *South-Seas*, or in any other manner to *New Spain*, than by the said Contract prescribed; where then are the great things (we have been told of) obtained for *Great-Britain* in respect to its Trade to *New Spain*. and by erecting the *South-Sea* Company? Or how have the Nation's Debts been paid without one penny Charge to the People, when nothing is more notorious than that since the erecting the *South-Sea* Company, there has been raised by Parliament, the Sum of 500000*l.* yearly for the Interest of their Debt; and that there are Funds charged (which 'till 1716. are appropriated to other uses) to raise and pay the Interest of their Debt to Perpetuity, or 'till the Nation finds means of paying it off.

Surely had any such Advantages accrued to the Nation, either from the erecting of the *South-Sea* Company, or the *Affiento* Contract, or the late Peace, every body would have felt and readily acknowledged the Benefit of them, and been able to have pointed out to any Objectors, the Particulars gained in Trade, unenjoyed before by the Subjects of *Great-Britain*.

As

As I have formerly hinted to you, I wish due Reflection was made by every Subject of *Great-Britain*, on the sending Goods in the manner prescrib'd in the 42d Article of the *Affiento* Contract: This I must confess will be a new Method of Trading to *New Spain*, but I deny its being any new Advantage in point of Trade to the Subjects of *Great-Britain*; 'tis only taking from the Trade we had before the last War, and might (as 'tis said we have Peace with *Spain*, and the Trade on the footing we had it in the Reign of King *Charles* the 11d.) expect again to and from *Cadix*, *Port St. Mary*, &c. 'Tis well if this manner of Trading, as by the said 42d Article prescribed, do not (which 'tis my settled Opinion it will) prove a Discouragement to, and lessening of the Exportation of the Manufactures, and consequently the Trade of this Kingdom, on the general Ballance with the *Spanish* Nation.

For as this manner of Trade will certainly lessen the number of *British* Gentlemen from going or living as formerly, or otherwise as Factors in *Cadix*, *Port St. Maries*, &c. (whose Friends or Acquaintances when there wou'd keep them more or less employ'd) so those Places were the Mart of our Manufactures for the *Indies*, and there the Traders or Merchants who embarked on the Galleons and Flota's, informed themselves what Species and Quantities were bought up and Ship'd from time to time; or 'twere generally encouraging for them, severally to buy or take with them upon each Fleet; which they must be at a loss in, if the *South-Sea* Company or *Affientists* do Trade according to the manner prescribed in the 42d Article of the *Affiento* Contract afore-mentioned; and as the Dealing upon such Uncertainties will prevent our Merchants from sending the quantities of our Manufactures (as formerly, and some People have the assurance to expect

pect now) to *Cadiz*, Port *St. Maries*, &c. so 'twill prevent the Trader or Merchants that Embark on the Galleons and Flota's (as may be probably conjectur'd) from buying any of the small Quantities of *British* Manufactures sent to those Places by our Merchants; or from their taking any of our Manufactures with them to sell on our Merchants Accounts, as has been formerly practis'd, and be the means of turning the former manner of Trade, and occasion those Traders and Merchants to *New Spain* to buy the Goods of, and be concerned in this Trade with other Nations; consider, I pray, the Consequences of this to *Great-Britain*.

I must freely confess to you, that to me it will seem to be very impolitick (were it no Disadvantage in general, as evidently it must be to her Majesty's Dominions) for *Great-Britain*, either by a Law, to put a stop to, or otherwise Discountenance or Discourage the Subjects of it from Trading in what manner they can with any Nation or People, where 'tis their Interest, and an Advantage to this Kingdom they should; as plainly in this Case.

It may be shown, (if any are so weak as to question it) that every Kingdom, or State, that have Colonies and Plantations abroad, and under their several immediate Governments, act in the same manner as the Kingdom of *Old Spain* doth in respect to any other Kingdoms or States Subjects trading to *New Spain*; and do not permit any of the Subjects of such other Kingdom or State to trade to such their Colonies and Plantations; And whoever does Trade to them, and not Subjects of, and come not from the Dominions of the Government they are severally under, the Ship and Goods are liable to a Forfeiture by the Laws, Customs, &c. of each Country, should they be seized.

And

And therefore those Persons that Trade, do it collusively, and are constantly upon their Guard; but tho' each particular Kingdom and State have Laws, Customs, &c. to prevent the Subjects of others from Trading to their Colonies and Plantations, yet no one Kingdom or State have any Laws, Customs, &c. to prevent or restrain its own Subjects from Trading to the Colonies or Plantations of any other Kingdom or State; surely then we shall consider well before we do a thing so much against the Interest of the Trading Subjects of her Majesty's Dominions, and the general Advantage of the Kingdom, and not exclude our selves, and leave this Beneficial method and way of Trade to be carried on and enjoyed by the *French, Dutch,* and other Nations, of every one of whom, by our Situation, we have certainly a very great Advantage in carrying on the said Trade.

I heartily wish my Apprehensions, which arise from the certain Declaration of some Men who are looked upon as great Managers in the Article of the Trade of the Nation, may have no Foundation, and that no Law be Enacted, or Orders given, or Power interfere, to prevent or discourage the Subjects of *Great-Britain* or the Plantations, from Trading as usual with the *Spaniards*. And also, that not any Assistance (with our Men of War or otherwise) be given by the Government to the *South-Sea* Company, or *Assentists*, for the seizing of any Ship or Vessel belonging to the Subjects of *Great-Britain* Trading with the *Spaniards*, exclusive of, and not within the Limits of the Charter of the *South-Sea* Company.

As our Colonies and Plantations are certainly all in some measure very valuable to *Great Britain*, and its Interest to Preserve and Encourage, so I must repeat to you again the Island of *Jamaica* in

a more particular manner, which gives me hopes, whatever may be the design of some Men who are for ruining the Trade with the *Spaniards*, that the necessary regard will be had to its Preservation and Encouragement by the Government.

I am, S I R, Yours, &c.

S I R,

May 5, 1714.

TIS no small Satisfaction to me, that my Letters have given you and others an Idea of the Consequence, and the Advantage the Island of *Jamaica* is to *Great Britain*, not only for its Situation, and the Trade carried on from it with the *Spaniards*; but for its Produce in Sugar, Indigo, &c. and Consumption of the Goods and Merchandizes of and from *Great Britain*, whereby considerable Employment is given to the Navigation of the Kingdom.

And I can't but tell you, that I am pleased to find you are of Opinion with me, that the *Assiento* Contract will never Answer; and that carrying on a Trade on the foot of it, as in 42 Articles, will be ruinous to our Trade to the *Indies*, formerly from *Cadiz*, &c. as well as to that from *Jamaica*, and other the *British* Plantations; and I wish with you, that some means could be found out, and entered upon, so that the *French* Encrease in their Settlements, especially on *Hispaniola*, might not, as you justly infer from my Letters, endanger *Jamaica*, and occasion its falling (upon a Rupture with *France*) into their Hands, and our Sugar Trade being lost to the Kingdom.

'Tis above eighteen Months that the *Assiento* Contract has been agreed, and Goods have been shipped

shipt by the *South Sea Company*; and 'tis from the Motions of the Company not unlikely, that the Ships may stay here, before they Sail, as much longer as the Goods have been shipt. Such Delays, in Prosecution of a Trade which has been declared on so many Occasions, and the People made to believe, so very advantageous an one, seems very extraordinary; sure such Delays should not be made, since the former Trade from *Cadiz*, &c. is (as 'tis pretended) to be made good, and much improved and enlarged to *Great Britain*, by one on the foot of *Affiento* Contract, tho' no Ship has been sent, and it may be an Uncertainty when any may; yet that great Quantities of Goods have been bought up by the *South Sea Company*, has resounded all over the Kingdom, and did not a little Service in making People think much better of the Peace with *France* and *Spain* at the late Elections, then at present they find any Reason for.

Besides those Particulars, mentioned in my former Letters, of trading on the foot of the *Affiento* Contract being detrimental to the general Interest of *Great Britain*, I am now to take Notice to you that all Letters from *Cadiz*, *Port St. Mary's*, &c. to our Merchants in *London*, *Bristol*, &c. give them very Melancholy Accounts of the State and Condition of the Trade there; and in particular, that it is chiefly in the Hands of, and carried on by the *French*, and that the Treaty of Commerce subjects the Trade from *Great Britain* to such Hardships, as were never before known in *Spain*: And from the Island of *Jamaica* 'tis abundantly confirmed by all Letters, that the Trade ever enjoy'd from thence with the *Spaniards* is in a manner lost, four *French* Men of War being stationed upon the Coast of *New Spain*, to prevent and interrupt their Trading. 'Tis given out these Ships are lent the King of

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Spain;

Spain, and act by vertue of *Spanish* Commissions; already they have taken or seized some Trading Vessels belonging to *Jamaica*, to a very considerable Value; therefore be pleased to observe, that while our Trade from *Jamaica* is thus prevented and interrupted, the *French* enjoy and carry on (and by this means more advantageously) their Trade in the *South Seas*, where, all Letters in *February* and *March* last from *Jamaica* inform the Traders here, that there were Trading above twenty Sail of *French* Ships; and at this time many Ships are fitting out in several Ports of *France* for the same Voyage.

You very well know that I was out of *England* when the Doctor was Condemn'd by the Queen, Lords and Commons, and did not return 'till her Majesty had procured her Subjects a Peace; and therefore had never read the Act, Entituled, *An Act for making good Deficiencies, and satisfying the Publick Credit; and for erecting a Corporation to carry on a Trade to the South Seas; and for the Encouragement of the Fishery; and for Liberty to Trade in unwrought Iron with the Subjects of Spain, and to repeal the Acts for Registering Seamen*, 'till very few Days ago, when I met with the following remarkable Preamble for erecting the *South Sea Company*, viz.

Whereas it is of the greatest Consequence to the Honour and Welfare of this Kingdom, and for the Increase of the Strength and Riches thereof; and for the vending the Product and Manufacture, Goods and Merchandizes of or brought into this Kingdom, and Employment of the Poor, that a Trade should be carried on to the *South Seas*, and other Parts in *America*, within the Limits herein after mentioned, which cannot be so securely and successfully begun and carried on, as by a Corporation, with a joint Stock, exclusive of all others. Now for the better Encourage-
ment

ment of all and every the Person or Persons, Body Politick or Corporate, who shall be or become Members of the said Company or Corporation, to be erected as aforesaid; and to the end and intent that a Trade to the *South Seas*, and other parts of *America*, within the Limits herein after mentioned, may be carried on and promoted for the Advantage and Honour of this Kingdom; Be it enacted, &c.

The reading of this Preamble immediately brought into my Mind many things in the *Affiento* Contract, and in particular these Words in the 42d Article, viz. 'The said Company shall not carry on, or attempt any unlawful Trade, or other Trade than specified in the said Contract, directly or indirectly, under any Pretence whatsoever; which Words seem calculated to prohibit all other Trade with the *Spaniards* in the *Indies*, and are an effectual Bar to the Settlement and Commerce of the *South Sea* Company into the *South Seas*, from a Trade, whence, as by the recited Preamble, such wonderful Advantages were to accrue to the Kingdom. Thus you see this *expected advantageous Trade* that was to have vended the Manufacture of this Kingdom, and found Employment for the Poor, is entirely given up, and lost to *Great Britain*; and as the Duties laid by the Treaty of Commerce on our Goods and Merchandize (as agreed by all Merchants) will ruin the Trade might have been expected to the Kingdom of *Old Spain*, so it is to be presumed, that the number of *French Ships* Trading to the *South Seas*, will not only occasion the Case of the *South Sea* Company (should they send Goods to *New Spain*, as by the 42d Article they have Liberty) to be much worse than I have represented it; but also, together with the *French* Guard Ships, prevent and wholly put an end to the

Trade with the *Spaniards* from *Jamaica*, which has brought from 100000 *l.* to 250000 *l.* yearly into this Kingdom, as I have before observed.

The present Condition and Circumstance of our Trade formerly enjoyed to *Old* and *New Spain*, deserves seriously to be attended to, and considered by every Man that is a Well-wisher and Lover of his Country; and was every Man to make Enquiry thereinto, he would find the Advantages formerly enjoyed by *England*, in having the Trade to these Kingdoms chiefly to it self, to be (as I have taken Notice to you) mostly enjoy'd by the *French*, and if suffer'd to go on thus, they will engross it wholly to themselves, and soon become Masters of the Product and Trade of *America*, and consequently of that of the greatest part of *Europe*.

This must be the Case, and hardly remediable as things are with us, or since *Spain* and the *Indies* have been left in the Possession of one of the House of *Bourbon*; and a Trade ever valuable to *Great Britain* is ruined, by being thrown (and other of her Majesty's Subjects depriv'd of enjoying it) into the Hands of a Company, who, not to mention the Parties and Divisions among them ever destructive to Trade, tho' so long erected, and so long an *Assiento* Contract given them, have not sent a piece of *British* Manufacture, or a Negro, either into the *South Seas*, or any other part of the *Spanish West Indies*.

I am, S I R, yours, &c.

S I R,

S I R,

May 10. 1714.

HAVING received yours, wherein you desire me to give you the State of the Island of *Jamaica*, with respect to the Soldiers there; and whether there be any occasion for them now in time of Peace, by reason it will be very soon consider'd in your House; in compliance with your Commands, I shall do it as far as I am capable.

Since by my former Letters you are well inform'd of the Consequences and Advantages of that Island to *Great-Britain*, therefore on this Subject I need only say, that those Advantages (abstracting them from other Considerations) do in a great measure depend on the Security of that Island; the Merchants trading thither, and the Factors going to, and residing in it; and that this Security the Soldiers have been to the Island, and are still necessary for the Preservation of it; and in case they should be recall'd, would (in that particular only) very much endanger the Trade and Safety of the Island.

For the Negroes on the Island being upwards of 80000, and the white People not above 2000, may at any time rise and destroy the white People; to prevent which, as well as secure themselves from an Enemy in time of War, or Pyrates in time of Peace, there are constant Guards kept in the Forts, and several parts of the Island, which before the Soldiers came thither were serv'd by the Inhabitants, but was a very great Toil and Fatigue to them, occasion'd the Death of many white People, especially newly come to the Island; and was consequently very prejudicial to the Trade and Business of it. Not to mention that such Guards were not, nor could be so well serv'd by the *Militia*, as by Regular Forces, especially in those Forts where there were any number of great Guns, &c.

This Danger from the Negroes, and the Necessity there was for having white People in Numbers, the first Settlers or Inhabitants in 1672, were so sensible of, that there was a Law made, to oblige every Master of Negroes to keep a white Man to the first five, and one to every ten afterwards, altho' at that time the white People in the Island were six to one, or more, than what they are at present; and the Negroes not above one third to what they are now; and the Island had no such formidable Neighbour, as I have before shewn the *French* on *Hispaniola* now are.

The Island having extremely decreased in People since the great Earthquake, the Inhabitants, upon the Apprehensions of the former War, humbly desir'd his late Majesty, for the Security of the Island, to send a number of Soldiers thither, which was accordingly granted, and have been in part continued there by her present Majesty.

In Consideration of the Service and Security the Soldiers were to the Island, both from Enemies without, and the Negroes within, and the difference of their living there, and in *Great Britain* or *Ireland*, they have been allow'd an additional Subsistence of 5 s. a Week for a private Soldier, and 20 s. a Week to an Officer, over and above their Pay on the Establishment of *Great-Britain*; which additional Subsistence has been rais'd by a Law, obliging every Master of Negroes to pay a certain Rate for every white Man he had not, in proportion to a certain number of Negroes, according to, or upon the Model of the Law made in 1672, which is not repeal'd, but has been dispens'd with, during the continuance of the Law for an additional Subsistence of the Soldiers.

As this Law varies from the other in the Execution, so the proportion which was a white Man to 10, or to pay a Deficiency for every 10 Negroes, was

was soon rais'd for every thirty, and thus in a great measure became the Decrease of white Men.

I shall not trouble you with the unaccountable and most extraordinary Proceedings of the Assembly of *Jamaica*, you having great part of them before you, further than taking notice, that notwithstanding the Facts aforesaid, the Majority (being actuated by Passion and Prejudice) did, without any regard to the Interest of the Island, refuse and declare against allowing the Soldiers such additional Subsistence, any longer than the first of this Month; and are endeavouring by their Agents or Friends here (tho' no Address of Thanks for them, or Representation of their being a Charge to the Island, nor any Request be made by the Country to the Queen) to get them recall'd: Altho' the Soldiers, which have been at times 700, are now reduced to 300; therefore are not half the Charge to the Island as formerly: And as by the Peace the Produce of the Plantations comes safely to Market, so by being brought cheaper to it, and selling at a greater Price, the Country is much better able to allow them an additional Subsistence than formerly: And in case the Soldiers should be recall'd, considering the present Circumstances of the Island, 'tis to be fear'd the Island would be in Danger, not only from an Invader, but even from the Negroes within; and the Merchants will be discourag'd from sending their Effects thither, and the Factors and Men of Business from going to, or residing in the Island, whereby the Trade will be in a great measure lost, even on this account only.

After what I have said to you on this Head, I shall now, Sir, desire you to consider the following Extracts out of my Lord *Arch. Hamilton*, Governor of *Jamaica's*, Letters to the Lords of Trade

and Plantations, by which you will see his Lordship's Sense on this matter.

In a Letter dated the 10th of *October*, his Lordship writes, ' That the Negroes had lately cut in pieces two white Men in open Day, and he cannot but from this Consideration propose the Necessity of continuing some Regular Forces, at least for some time after the Peace, or until the Island can reap the Benefit of it by an addition of white Men there, or otherwise the Island may be liable to some unlucky Disaster by an Insurrection.

And in the said Letter his Lordship further adds, ' That from what he says, he believes that Board will be of Opinion, that they are not altogether fit to be left by themselves; and that at least 300 Men, which might be independent Companies, and of much less Charge to her Majesty, would be necessary in time of Peace to Garrison the Forts, and keep other Guards, to which he attributes much of the Quiet this Island has hitherto enjoyed.

And in another Letter of the 27th of *October*, says farther, ' That if any thing like what he had the Honour to write to their Lordships, should be resolv'd on, he is perswaded the Country will cheerfully go into it, notwithstanding the factious Endeavours of a few, who have never been satisfied with any Government.

Having, Sir, in this manner given you the State of the Island in relation to the Soldiers, and confirm'd what I have said, by my Lord *Hamilton's* Letters to the Board of Trade, I do not in the least question, but that from the usual Prudence and Concern for your Country, and whatever depends on it, so visible in all your Actions, you will employ that Interest your distinguishing Qualifications have gain'd in your
Honou-

Honourable House, for obtaining the Continuance of the Forces at *Jamaica*; and that they may not be recalled, at least until the Assembly of that Island shall have made a Law for inviting and encouraging of white People to come and reside in it, and for obliging the Planters to keep a white Man for every ten Negroes, or pay a certain Sum weekly deficiency; and the Execution of that Law be in the Government, and not in the Planters, as that made in the Year 1672 was, which rendred it of little or no effect, each Man sparing his Neighbour for his own sake.

Submitting these things to your Consideration,

I am, S I R, yours, &c.

S I R,

May 25, 1714.

I Have perused the Book you sent me, Entitled, *Some Observations shewing the Danger of losing the Trade of the Sugar Colonies*, written, as I take it, by the same Person, that wrote *The present State of the Sugar Plantations*, Dedicated to the Lord Treasurer; which Book concludes thus remarkably; ' it was ' the Extraordinary Genius, and diligent Application of the great Minister *Colbert* to Trade and ' Navigation, that advanc'd the Grandeur of the ' *French* Nation, together with his excellent Regulation of the Finances, more than all the Undertakings of the preceding Ministers of that ' Prince; and yet the *French* were a People very ' little disposed to Trade, therefore the *British* Subjects, who have exceeded all other Nations in ' their Capacity towards Settlements Abroad, cannot fail of making greater Progress in Trade and ' Navigation, and more especially seeing her Majesty

Majesty has at present a Ministry who are remarkable for their Learning, Experience and great Sagacity in Publick Affairs; and that such a Foundation has been already laid for enlarging the Trade and Navigation of this Kingdom, as will, in spite of all Malice, shew the Superior Genius of the Principal Founder thereof. As I am informed what are this Gentleman's Principles as to Government, and his Declarations of the Management of the present M——y, I am to look upon him as serious in what I have just mentioned, and therefore should be very glad he would but particularize wherein the present M——y, so remarkable, as he says, for *their Learning, Experience, and great Sagacity in Publick Affairs*, have laid such a Foundation for enlarging the Trade and Navigation of this Kingdom.

'Tis plain it can't be by erecting a *South Sea* Company for Trading to the *South Seas*, that being at an end by accepting of the *Affiento's* Contract, or a Forfeiture of whatever they may have in *Spain*, should they so Trade; and, as, without the Acceptance of the said Contract, they could not have been precluded by the Treaty of *Spain*, except confirmed by Act of Parliament, from Trading into the *South Seas*: So by the Act whereby the *South Sea* Company is erected, other her Majesty's Subjects are precluded, which deserves to be duly considered, since the *French* so freely and amply enjoy and carry on a Trade thither.

It can't be by obtaining the *Affiento* Contract for the supplying the *Spaniards* with Negroes, or sending yearly a Ship of 500 Tuns to *Portobello* with Goods to be Sold only at the time of the Fair; since, not to repeat that the *South Sea* Company as *Affientists* will be Losers by the said Contract, and Trading on the foot thereof, there will not thereby be any
new,

new, or greater supply of Money brought into this Kingdom, than before from the Trade carried on from Jamaica, which this Contract, or Trading on the foot of it, not only puts an end to, but also to that from Cadiz, Port St. Mary's, &c. to the Indies; and besides, not only greatly depopulates, and takes from Jamaica the best Strength and Security of it, its Seafaring Men, but prevents the further Encrease in the Settlement of the Island, which is capable of producing three times what it does at present, as I presume is fully made appear in my former Letters.

It can't be by leaving out in the Articles of Peace concluded at *Utrecht*, the seventh Article of the Preliminary Treaty of *Gertrudenberg*, viz. *That particularly, and especially, France shall never become possessed of the Spanish West Indies, nor send Ships thither to exercise Commerce under any Pretence whatsoever.* Had this Article been in the Treaty at *Utrecht*, there would have wanted no *Assiento* Contract, or other Article for Trade with *Spain*, being hereby the Trade to the *Indies* must inevitably have fallen mostly to *Great Britain*.

It can't be by having the Possession of *Newfoundland*, since the *French* have procur'd a Cession to be made them of the Island of *Cape Breton*, and several Islands in the Gulph of *St. Florence*, and have further obtained Liberty of curing and drying their Fish, setting up Stages, and resorting to our Island of *Newfoundland* during all the time it is of any use to resort thither, that is, during the Fishing Season, whereby they do not only now supply themselves with the Fish they formerly had from us, but furnish many parts of *Spain* and *Italy* therewith, and Rival us there to our prodigious Loss.

It can't be by making a Treaty of Commerce with *France*, that having been rejected, or not
made

made effectual by the last Parliament, as detrimental to the Trade and Manufacture of this Kingdom; and that this Treaty would be so, was it not confirmed by Parliament, will appear to any impartial unprejudic'd Person that shall read a Paper, Entitled, *The British Merchant, or Commerce preserv'd, in answer to the Mercator, or Commerce retriev'd*, and, not to mention the many good Pamphlets on this Subject, that Entitled *the Vindication of the last House of Commons in rejecting the Bill for confirming the 8th and 9th Articles of the Treaty of Navigation and Commerce between England and France*.

It can't be by the Treaty of Commerce with Spain, since that Treaty puts the Trade of Great Britain to Spain under greater Disadvantages than ever before. For it takes from the Factors, or English Merchants living there, their Ancient Priviledge of a *Judge Conservator*, and Security for Trading; and as all our Merchants that have liv'd in, and been Traders to Spain unanimously agree must ruin, or put an end to any Trade that might (as 'tis Peace) have been ex, cted to that Kingdom; but this, and greater Consequences attending Great Britain were timely foreseen, and taken Notice of (as is evident by the Letter to a Member of the October Club) should Spain and the Indies be given to, or left in the Possession of any of the House of Bourbon.

It can't be by any thing that appears in either of the Treaties of Peace with France or Spain, to be done, or articted to prevent the growing Power of the French in America; 'is true they have yielded up that part of St. Christopher's taken from them the first Year of the late War, and why not to the Spaniards (as was intended by the late Ministry) the share they are in Possession of on Hispaniola, which not only will endanger Jamaica, but when compleatly settled, the whole Sugar Trade of this Kingdom.

The

The Consequences of which, in the Words of Colonel Cleland, an Author already quoted, must be attended with the loss of a considerable Trade to these Kingdoms, it may be computed one way or other near two Millions Sterling per Ann. which must bring Ruin to many thousand Families in the Plantations, and many more thousands in these Dominions.

It can't be by having reserved *Port Mabone* and *Gibraltar* in our Possessions; which Places, as they will be a constant Yearly Charge to this Nation, so the Consequences and Advantages arising from them are only in Case of War with *France*, *Spain*, and other Nations, a very precarious Security to our Trade into the *Levant* and *Mediterranean*; and surely it will not be said, the Trade of *Great Britain*, and particularly of *London*, is secured (as in Case of a War with *France* it was believed it would) by having the Harbour of *Dunkirk* demolished, since the Grand Monarch is building an Harbour at *Mardyke*, to serve in the same stead as *Dunkirk* did before.

Upon reading the Paragraph I have given you out of Colonel *Cleland's* Book, these several Particulars occurred to me; and therefore I am at a Loss wherein a Foundation is laid by the present M——y, or their Founder, for enlarging the Trade and Navigation of this Kingdom. I can see nothing like it, by our late Treaties of Peace and Commerce with *France* and *Spain*. Some People aver they are destructive of both; surely this Gentleman can't mean, because I am inform'd the M——y are generally agreed, that an exclusive Trade to *Africa* is most for the Interest of the Plantations, that such is the Foundation laid for enlarging of the Trade and Navigation of this Kingdom. In every Sessions for many Parliaments, it has been resolved that the Trade to *Africa* ought to be free and open to all
ber

ber Majesty's Subjects of Great Britain and the Plantations; but nothing is more clear than the design of these two Pamphlets being to gain an *exclusive Trade* to Africa for the Royal African Company. And as the Author's Apprehensions are, that our Sugar Colonies will be ruined for want of an *exclusive Trade*, by which they may have a constant Supply of Negroes at moderate rates :

Mine, if such an *exclusive Trade* should be granted, would arise partly from thence, but more especially from the growing Power of the *French* in *America*, and the Increase of their Sugar Settlements in these Islands, especially on the Island of *Hispaniola*, an Island, by its Largeness and the Goodness of its Soil, capable when its fully settled (as it certainly will be in a few Years) of producing as much Sugar as all our Colonies, and a much greater quantity of Indigo, Ginger, Cotton, &c.

I am, S I R, yours, &c.

S I R,

IN my former having taken notice of the Danger the Trade and Navigation of *Jamaica* is in from its Neighbours, from its Situation, and the Loss like to attend it from the *Affiento* Contract, or the *South Sea* Company's trading on the Foot thereof, and doing as the *French* do now, viz. seizing our Vessels by Vertue of it, and shown the Danger there is, upon a Rupture with *France*, of its falling into the Hands of the *French*; now beg leave to give you an account what some others say thereupon.

The Lord Arch. Hamilton, Governor of *Jamaica*, in a Speech to the Assembly since the Peace, tells

tells them, *The inviting and encouraging Artificers and Trades-men, in which the Strength of a Colony so much consists, to come and settle amongst them, did deserve their particular Consideration, especially at this time when the Power of their Neighbours on Hispaniola was already formidable, and like to encrease.* And the Lords of Trade, in a Letter to my Lord Bolinbroke, say, *That as to the Consequence of recalling the Regiment, we take leave to represent, in Concurrence with the Opinion of the Governor, and of the Merchants and Planters here, that Jamaica being in a manner surrounded by Spanish and French Settlements, if no regular Forces there, it may be in Danger from the Attempt of an Enemy, in case of any Rupture hereafter.*

And Col. Cleland in his Book Entitled, *Some Observations shewing the Danger of losing the Trade of the Sugar Colonies*, tells us, viz. 'The French in their Islands, especially in that great Island of *Hispaniola*, in which they have got a footing, are possess'd of large Countries, and great Tracts of fertile Land, which produce Provisions and most other Necessaries and Conveniences for Life, and likewise Materials and Requisites for Manufacturing Sugar and other the Product of the Island, such as Timber, Cattle, Horses, &c.

'And on the other hand the *English* Sugar Plantations are upon small Islands, *Barbadoes*, which is but twenty Miles in length, and about twelve Miles over in the broadest part, being the largest of them all excepting *Jamaica*; and even that Island is not well Inhabited, has a great deal of Savanna Land, is very Mountainous, and in a War is very much expos'd; so that if the Windward Islands should come to be deserted or lost, *Jamaica* could never be kept and improv'd so as to support the Sugar Trade of this Kingdom.

Thus

Thus you see I am not singular in my Apprehensions of the Danger the Island *Jamaica* is in, from *Hispaniola*, of falling (upon a Rupture with *France*) into the Hands of the *French*; nor can I be so, as to our Sugar Colonies being ruin'd, or of little Advantage to *Great-Britain*, should a Peace with *France* be lasting, and that from the Encrease of the *French* Settlements on *Hispaniola*. This seems most evidently to determine the Fate of our Sugar Trade, and not the Colonies want of being supply'd on moderate Terms with Negroes, being nothing is more Notorious, than that the Plantations, *since the Trade to Africa being laid open in 1697*, have been better supply'd with Negroes than before.

The Consequences of the *French* growing Power in *America*, and the encrease of their Settlements on *Hispaniola*, especially the Danger thereof to *Jamaica*, and the Sugar Trade, was timely foreseen and taken notice of; and as the King of *France* did become a Suitor to *Great-Britain* for Peace, and acknowledg'd he ow'd his Kingdom to the Suspensions of the *British* Arms, 'tis presum'd might have been prevented, had it been demanded and insisted on at a proper time for the *French* to have restor'd to the *Spaniards* the share they possess'd of the Island of *Hispaniola*.

Thus, Sir, I have given you, according to your several Commands, my Thoughts, in this and my former Letters, of the Consequence and Advantage of the Island of *Jamaica* to *Great-Britain*, as respecting its Situation, its Produce, and the Trade from thence with the *Spaniards*: I have also told you what Sums of Money have been formerly brought into this Kingdom thereby; and have likewise consider'd how sensibly the Improvements or Decay of the Island of *Jamaica*, and its advantage-

ous Trade would affect *Great-Britain*, and shown the manifest Disadvantages both lie at present under (which are still likely to encrease) from several Considerations; *First*, from the small Number of its Inhabitants, whereby it's liable to an Insurrection from within, and Invasions from without. *Secondly*, From the *Assiento's* Contract, which entirely prohibits and destroys that Advantageous Trade from *Jamaica* to the *Spanish West Indies*. Altho', as I presume I have fully prov'd, such Trade on the foot of the *Assiento* Contract will be detrimental and a loss to the *South-Sea Company*; and altho' did not the Treaty of Commerce entirely ruin it, it would be extreamly prejudicial to the Advantageous Trade of this Kingdom, formerly to *Old Spain*, especially *Cadiz*, *Port St. Maries*, &c.

Thirdly, From the liberty now enjoy'd by the *French* of Trading to the *Spanish West-Indies*, which they never did before one of the House of *Bourbon* came into the Possession of the Throne of *Spain*, which they are engrossing to themselves, taking and seizing our Vessels, that they presume are Trading; this is still confirm'd every Day by very melancholy Letters from *Jamaica*, as particularly in the *Daily Courant* of the 7th Instant, in which you will find this following Paragraph.

Jamaica, March 10. We have in a manner lost
 ' all our Trade with the *Spaniards*; hardly a good
 ' Voyage has been made hence to the Coast since
 ' you left us, and the *Spanish* Ports are too well
 ' guarded at present, they having now four Ships
 ' of War, one whereof is the *Hampton-Court*,
 ' which are stationed at *Cartagena*, *Portobello*, the
 ' *Havana*, and *la Vera Cruz*: *Thornton* (who Com-
 ' manded a *Jamaica* Sloop whose Cargo cost
 ' above 10000*l.* and had neither Traded nor broke

‘ Bulk when taken) was lately made Prize by the
 ‘ *Hampton-Court*, and his Vessel condemn’d at *Car-*
 ‘ *tagena*; and I was inform’d by him since his re-
 ‘ turn hither, that the *French* have now in the
 ‘ *South-Seas* near upon 30 Sail of Ships; so that
 ‘ you may guess what a condition we are like to be
 ‘ in here as to our Trade.’

Lastly, From the growing Power of the *French* in *America*, particularly on *Hispaniola*, which by its Extent and Fertility, the Number and Industry of its Inhabitants, I have shewn to be a dangerous Neighbour to *Jamaica*, and consequently so to our Sugar Colonies, and the Trade and Navigation of *Great-Britain*,

Upon these two Accounts, First, That it is so to the Island of *Jamaica* in case of a *Rupture* with *France*, by reason of its great Superiority in People, whereby *Jamaica*, being but thinly Inhabited, will be very liable to, and in great danger of an Invasion from thence, and of falling into the Hands of the *French*.

Secondly, That as by the *French* King’s Order (which I omitted before) for the better settling and peopling his Colonies in *America*, Every Ship or Vessel is oblig’d, when requir’d, to carry a certain number of People thither Freight-free. So even in time of Peace by the number of their Inhabitants always encreasing, by the said Order, and the Fertility of the Country in producing all Materials and Requisites for the enlarging and improving of their Sugar Works, and the vast extent of *Hispaniola*, they will not only make much greater quantities of Sugar, than we can in our Plantations, but at a cheaper Price, by being better furnish’d with most Materials for the doing thereof within themselves; whereas our Islands, at least some of them,
 are

are oblig'd to be supply'd from other her Majesty's Dominions with those Materials and Requisites, at a greater Expence, and therefore our Product must necessarily be made up at a much dearer Rate than theirs, whereby the Consequence will be, that the *French* will in a little time beat us out of that most valuable Article to the Kingdom, *the Sugar Trade*. And all this is so evident, that other Persons, with *different Views* to my self, induced by the apparent Tendency of these things, could not help making the like Remarks, altho' they would insinuate them to proceed from other Causes meerly chimerical.

If in the course of my several Letters I may seem in some parts of them, to have digress'd from my first Subject, or express'd my self in too warm or free a manner, I hope, Sir, my good Intentions therein are so visibly design'd, either to point out our real Advantages, or expose those *artful Methods*, made use of to darken our true Interest, and thereby advance the Trade and Power of other Nations, that your Candor and sincere Love of, and Knowledge in the Interest of your Country, will pardon any such Expressions from one not studious of speaking or writing agreeably, but with Sincerity, which engages me on all occasions to profess my self,

S I R,

June 12, 1714.

Tours, &c.

D 2

S I R,

S I R,

I Have yours, wherein you acquaint me what was said in your House by two Gentlemen in the Commission of Trade, &c. As to the first, ' That ' the *South Sea* Company have bought 5 or 600000 *l.* ' in Goods and Merchandize, and are sending them ' forthwith to *New-Spain*, and in Nine Months ' will have upwards of a Million in return as Pro- ' duce thereof:

In Answer, I have been assured by some Directors of that Company, that the Goods bought by them are not to the value of 300000 *l.* and great part of them not the Manufacture of *Great-Britain*: But admitting there be bought to the value the Gentleman alledged in your House, I want to have it explain'd by him, how a Return shall come to *Great-Britain* in such time as upward of a Million.

You know that the *South Sea* Company Ship'd Goods, &c. on two of the Queen's Ships above eighteen Months ago, which Ships are still in the River: And as it is very uncertain when they will Sail, so 'tis stipulated in the *Affiento* Contract, ' That ' the Company shall not sell the Goods and Merchandizes, but only at the time of the Fair; and ' if arrive before the Flota's and Galléons, the ' Factors of the Company shall be obliged to land ' the Goods and Merchandizes, and put them into ' Warehouses that shall be locked with two Keys, ' One of which to remain with the Royal Officers, ' and the other with the Factors of the Company, ' to the end the said Goods and Merchandizes may ' be sold, during the continuance of the Fair only.

Now

Now, Sir, considering that a Fair is generally but once in three Years, and sometimes longer, together with the Climate the Goods are sent to, and the Uncertainty of selling them the time the Fair lasts, I humbly conceive you will be of Opinion with me, that the *South Sea Company* will never have their first Cost in return for the Goods and Merchandizes they shall send to the *Spanish West Indies*.

This will infallibly be their Case, especially as they can sell but only during the time of the Fair, and the *French* carry on and enjoy so considerable a Trade into the *South Seas* directly.

As to the other, ' That the *Spaniards* must take
' 4800 Negroes, and the Company may carry 10000
' or more yearly, and can't fail of selling them at
' 40*l.* a head.

I answer, Tho' it may be allowed the *Spaniards* will ever want some Negroes, yet they are not obliged by the *Assiento Contract* to take from the *South Sea Company*, or *Assientists*, 4800 yearly; but the Company, or *Assientists*, are obliged to pay the Duties of 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ Pieces of Eight for 4000 Negroes yearly at *Madrid*, commencing from the 25th of *March* 1712-13, besides advancing King *Philip* 200000 Pieces of Eight, and his share for carrying on a Trade, which there is no other way provided to be repaid, than out of the Profits arising thereby.

'Tis very true, as said by this Gentleman, that the *South Sea Company* may carry 10000 Negroes, or more, yearly to the *Spanish West Indies*; but far from certain, the *Spaniards* will take them off at 40*l.* a head; nay, it is not certain they will the number of 4000, which the Company are obliged, by Acceptance of the *Assiento Contract*, to pay Duties yearly for at *Madrid*.

I will presume to say, that should the Company not exceed sending 4800 Negroes yearly, they will not sell at 40 *l.* a Head: The Duties deducted reduces it under 32 *l.* and should they send the Number of 10000 yearly, it would be very extraordinary if they sold them for the Duties and Charge of Transportation from *Africa*.

Our Traders who have had no Duties to pay, have not for many Years sold their Negroes among the *Spaniards* for above 120 to 140 Pieces of Eight, or 30 to 35 *l.* a Head, tho' only Men and Women, and two Men to a Woman: Generally a Cargo so there were Boys and Girls amongst them, have not come out more than 110 Pieces of Eight, or 27 *l.* 10 *s.* *Spanish* Mony.

If I am not misinformed, the Company have agreed to give 10 *l.* a head Sterling, so many Men so many, and so many Boys and Girls in such a number. On the Coast of *Africa* the Freight from thence 6 *l.* 10 *s.* and 7 *l.* and the Duties above 8 *l.* after mention of these Articles, there is no occasion to shew it must be a losing Trade, by observing the Number of Negroes may be allowed to die from the time are taken aboard on the Coast of *Africa*, to the time arrive at *New Spain*, and from after their Arrival there, and the 15 Days the Company are obliged to pay Duties for them, 'till they are or may be Sold.

I could wish Gentlemen who are carried away with a Notion of Advantages accruing to this Kingdom by the *Assiento* Contract, and the *South Sea* Company's intended Trade on the foot thereof, would but read the *Assiento* Contract it self, and acquaint themselves with the Nature of this Trade, and then they will perceive that Trading on the foot of this Contract would be a losing Trade to the

the Company, and an uncertain and precarious one to this Kingdom; and moreover, that the Trade carried on from *Jamaica*, not to mention that formerly from *Cadiz*, &c. to the *Spanish West Indies*, has been more for the Advantage of *Great Britain* than this Trade can be, which is pretended to be carried on by the *South Sea Company*.

I am much obliged to you for acquainting me what the Amount of the *South Sea* Stock appeared to the House, and am pleased not only that it is not so much by some hundred Thousands as Interest has been hitherto provided for by Parliament, but that by means thereof, and of the Interest of the Nations Stock in the *South Sea Company* (which the Company have till lately retained in their Hands) you have so much less Money to provide this Session for Interest of a Debt has been given out, and greedily swallowed by some People, to have been paid without any Charge to the Kingdom.

I am not surpris'd that such a Sum of Money of the Government's should be permitted to lie in the Hands of the *South Sea Company*, when I reflect without it they could not have bought Goods, and pray what would then some Men have had to say at their late Elections; but the having such Money permitted to remain in their Hands, has brought the Company into a Secret, the Goods, &c. being in great part damaged and spoiled by lying so long already aboard, and the Nation has been put thereby to the Expence of upwards 100000*l.* in providing and keeping in pay the Men of War appointed for their Service. I hope what I have said will satisfy those Gentlemen, for whose use you require me to write this Letter, that there is no possibility of a Million of Money

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being

being brought into the Kingdom by the *South Sea* Company in nine Months, or that the number of Negroes will be taken off by the *Spaniards*, as has been suggested by the honourable Gentlemen you mention.

I am, &c.

POSTSCRIPT.

SOME Mention being made in the foregoing Letters, that the Danger of losing our Sugar Trade cannot proceed from the want of the Plantations being supplied with a number of Negroes at moderate Prices, 'tis necessary to observe, for the Confirmation thereof:

That the Dispute between the *Royal African* Company and Separate Traders to *Africa*, having been referred some time since to the Consideration of the Lord's Commissioners of Trade, &c. their Lordships after long and mature Examination, determined the Issue of their Report on the Encrease of the Trade; since its being laid open, compared with the Company's Account thereof when they were exclusive; whereby it appeared,

That the *African* Company under an Exclusive Trade in time of Peace between 1680 and 1688, employ'd 259 Ships, being 28 Ships *per Ann.*

And delivered into the Plantations 46396 Negroes, being 5155 *per Ann.*

Which being compared with the Accounts sent to the Lords Commissioners of Trade from the respective Governors of *Jamaica*, *Barbadoes* and *Antego*,

rego, of the Imports of Negroes into those Islands since the Trade was laid open.

It appeared, that the Negroes imported into those Islands only amounted to 42000 for three Years of Peace, between 1700 to 1702, so that there were near as many Negroes delivered into those three Colonies only in three Years of Peace under an open Trade, as there were in nine Years of Peace by the Company into all the Plantations when exclusive.

To which the number of Ships, and Exports of Goods bore an equal Proportion: So that the laying open this Trade was at least 300000 *l. per Ann.* benefit to the Nation.

But which is a Demonstration of this Fact is, that there are now employed 100 and odd Ships capable of carrying 25000 Negroes a Year into the Plantations belonging to the Separate Traders; whereby it appears, that the Trade is now, even at the end of a long War, near four or five times more encreased than when 'twas exclusive in time of Peace.

Since the laying open the *African* Trade, the Export of the Manufacture of course Percepts to that Coast hath been increased from 3900 *per Ann.* to 70000 Pieces *per Ann.*

The *African* Company who have been seven Years solliciting the Parliament for an Exclusive Trade, own very ingeniously they would Export but a small Quantity in comparison of what is Exported now, because (say they) we will make the Natives give as much for half the Quantity as the whole.

But then what must become of half the Gentlemen's Wool, and the Poor Manufacturers of all sorts.

The

The Question in this particular (besides the Natives going to buy of other Nations) is only whether 'tis best for the Woollen Manufacture, that 3900 Percepts be Sold at two Ackys or Crowns each Piece, as was by the Exclusive Company in 1686, or that 70000 Pieces of Percepts a Year be Sold in an open Trade, as 'tis now, at 6 Ackys or Crowns each Piece; the one amounting to 9750 *per Ann.* the other to 105000 *per Ann.* by the difference whereof the Nation gains 95000 *per Ann.*

And whereas it has been said in Print, and otherwise, that the Separate Traders have not paid the *African* Company above one *per Cent.* on the Goods they have Exported to *Africa*; 'tis also necessary to observe,

That the Duties of 10 *per Cent.* received by the *African* Company of the Separate Traders has amounted to 90000 *l.* and therefore if the Separate Traders have paid but 1 *per Cent.* on their Exports to *Africa*, they must have Exported thither during the time (or 13 Years) the Duty of 10 *per Cent.* was payable, to the Value of nine Millions of Money Sterling.

This deserves Consideration, as that there are now more Ships in the Trade from *London* and the Outports than ever; and that when the choice Negroes sold for 14 *l.* to 18 *l.* a head, Sugar did not sell in the Plantations for half the Price it has done for many Years past, or since the Trade to *Africa* has been laid open to all her Majesty's Subjects.

The *African* Company's Settlements, as others, are on a small part of the Coast, and the Trade in general no ways dependant upon them; so that the *Turkey* Company have the same reason to claim the Property of all the Lands of the Grand Signior, because they have Factory Houses in *Turkey*, as the
African

African Company have to those of the Princes in *Africa*, to whom they pay Rent for the Ground where their Factories stand: If the Company had a Property to the sole Trade to *Africa*, why do all other Nations Trade to the same Places, as well where their Factories are, as where they are not.

It being said that Negroes cost upon the Coast of *Africa* 20*l.* to 24*l.* a Head, 'tis not be omitted, that the *African* Company have contracted to deliver the *South Sea* Company at 10*l.* as that the Separate Trade buy them much under 10*l.* on the Gold Coast and *Widab*, and at other Parts of the Coast from 50*s.* to 4*l.* a head, which they are ready to shew Vouchers for at all Times in a proper Place.

'Tis presum'd the foregoing Observations make it demonstrable, that the Loss of our Sugar Trade cannot proceed from the want of the Plantations being duly supplied with Negroes; but entirely the Causes already assign'd, viz. the Encrease of the *French* Settlements, and Power in the Island in *America*, especially on *Hispaniola*.

JUST as the Proofs of the last Letters were brought me, I had put into my Hands the *Mercators* for some Days past, which I but cursorily looked over, and should have been extremely surpris'd to find the Author in so Publick a manner shewing himself an Advocate for *Spain*, had not he been so for *France*: None but an Hireling for *France* would so scandalously have abused, not only her Majesty's distant Subjects, but the Inhabitants of a Country from whose Labour and Industry

stry such Riches have accrued, and been brought of late Years to this Kingdom.

None but this Wretch would have set Pen to Paper in the Service of his Masters for the Destruction of such an Island, and of a Trade from thence with the *Spaniards*, that has been of infinitely more Advantage to this Nation, than any Projects of erecting a *South Sea Company*, and an *Affiento Contract*.

I do not trouble my self whether the Letter reprinted from the *Flying Post* in *Mercator* 169, which he is so Angry with, be Genuine or not, I assure him those herein before incerted from *Jamaica* are so, and ready to be produced in a proper place, with many more to confirm them.

But because the Writer of that Letter hath said, viz. ' to what a low Ebb must *Jamaica* be brought ' if her Majesty don't speedily give us leave to use ' Reprisals; Instead of denying any of the Facts in the Letter, how arrogantly does the *Mercator* insult, although from the wording of the Letters, this may seem upon first view to be said of the *Spaniards*, yet I believe 'tis evident the Writer of the said Letter's meaning was, that her Majesty would give them leave to make Reprisals on the *French*, who siezed *Thornton* mentioned in that Letter, as all Letters from *Jamaica* confirm, and particularly as by part of a Letter from thence, inserted in the *Daily Courant* the 7th Instant appears, for therein 'tis expressly said, ' That *Thornton* was lately made ' Prize by the *Hampton-Court*, one of the four ' *French Men* of War stationed to interrupt our ' Trade from *Jamaica*.

The *Mercator* in No. 170. would have had his Readers believe the *French* have left off Trading with *New Spain*, or into the *South Seas* directly,
for

for says he, ' I am not ignorant what these Men
 ' suggest, that the *Spaniards* admit the *French* to
 ' Trade with them now, at the same time we are
 ' excluded; but they beg this Question with a
 ' Witness till they prove it, and till they can give
 ' us an Account of one *French* Ship arrived there
 ' since the Peace; what might be before the War
 ' was quite another Case, and not at all to the
 ' purpose.' But that to say the *French* now send
 Ships and Trade to *New Spain*, is not begging
 the Question, appears by the following Paragraph
 of a Letter from *Cadix* dated the 10th of *June* 1714,
 in the *Daily Courant* of this Day.

' Here is a *French* Ship loading for the *Spanish*
 ' *West Indies*, 'tis kept a Secret where she is bound,
 ' but supposed by her Cargo, which will be rich,
 ' for the *Vera Cruz*: Another sailed from hence a-
 ' bout three Weeks ago; these do not go as *Spa-*
 ' *niards* but as what they are, so they are not sa-
 ' tisfied with driving the Trade from *France*, but
 ' do it likewise from hence, whilst the *Spanish* Mer-
 ' chants are in a manner excluded by the seldom
 ' going of any of their Fleets: And besides from
 the Extract of Letters from *Jamaica* already men-
 tioned, which Letters, and many others from
 thence, together with some late ones from *France*,
 of several Ships being now fitting out at *St. Malo's*,
 &c. for the *South Seas*, are ready to be produced at
 all times in a proper Place.

I will so far agree with the *Mercator*, that our
 Trade from *Jamaica* with the *Spaniards* is a Collusive
 one, or contrary to the Laws, Customs, &c. of *Spain*,
 as well as that with us. All other Nations trading
 to our Colonies and Plantations, are seizable and
 liable to a Forfeiture: But I would desire him, as
 he has allowed this Trade to be a valuable one to
 the

the Kingdom, to make a distinction between our Traders being taken or seized by the *Spaniards*, according to their Laws, Customs, &c. and by the *French* with their Ships of War as Prize, or by our Governments depriving the Subjects of *Great-Britain* of that beneficial Trade, which from the *Spaniards*, whom it chiefly concerns, we should be in no Danger of.

I have in part touched upon this in my third Letter, and refer my Reader thither, with putting these Questions,

Whether any Stipulation in a Treaty, the Article whereof not particularly confirmed by Act of Parliament; can restrain the Subject from any Right or Liberty, which otherwise he might lawfully claim or enjoy, or put him under any Penalties or Incapacities which the Laws of his Country have not done?

Whether 'tis the Interest of *Great-Britain*, to deprive its Subjects of those Advantages they have or might enjoy, in Complacence to the Interest of any foreign Nation, by adding Force and Execution to their Laws, Customs, &c. against our own People, which would probably otherwise be dispens'd with by, or prove ineffectual from that Nation whom it wholly concerns?

The foregoing Reflections, upon the first reading these Papers, immediately occurred to me, and I can truly say, I heartily forgive the *Mercator* those familiar Names he bestows upon the Inhabitants of *Jamaica*, for the following Paragraphs in them.

' All Men know, that the Trade to *Jamaica*,
' would be of very small Moment to *England*, in
' comparison to what it now is, if their clandestine
' Trade with *New Spain* were taken away.

' They

‘ They own what is noted above, that take away
 ‘ their Clandestine and Pyratrical Trade, and the
 ‘ Island of *Jamaica* will be reduced to a very low
 ‘ Ebb, which is indeed very true, compared to
 ‘ that flourishing Trade which they carry on now;
 ‘ for *Jamaica*, as a Plantation, altho’ it be a very
 ‘ good Colony, yet is not able to carry on one
 ‘ twentieth part of the Trade which is now driven
 ‘ there. We know very well what are the Pro-
 ‘ ductions of that Island, such as Cotton, Indico,
 ‘ Cocoa, Pimento, &c. and the Quantity and Va-
 ‘ lue we bring from thence is easily known. But
 ‘ what is all this to the Gold and Silver which is
 ‘ return’d from thence to *Britain*, and particu-
 ‘ larly to the other of our *West India* or *American*
 ‘ Colonies, who are all supplied with their Cur-
 ‘ rent Coin and Plate from this one Island? And
 ‘ what numbers of People are maintain’d at *Ja-*
 ‘ *maica*, more than as a meer Plantation, would
 ‘ ever find Business there, who are all employ’d in
 ‘ the Trading with or Plundering and Robbing the
 ‘ *Spaniards*, even in the time of the profoundest
 ‘ Peace? Have not some Hundred thousand Pounds
 ‘ in Value in our Woollen Manufactures, and other
 ‘ Goods, been sent yearly from *England* to *Ja-*
 ‘ *maica*, more than they could any way dispose of,
 ‘ but for this Pyratrical Peace-breaking Trade.

‘ It may be well said by the Writers of the
 ‘ Letter from *Jamaica*, that if their liberty of
 ‘ trading Clandestinely is taken from them, their
 ‘ Trade will be reduced to a very low Ebb; for
 ‘ indeed fifteen Parts of twenty, nay some say, nine-
 ‘ teen Parts of twenty, of all the Trade of *Jamaica*,
 ‘ is their clandestine Trade with *Spain*, and such
 ‘ other Trades as depend thereon.

‘ First

‘ First it is certain, that this secret Trade to *Spain*
 ‘ is the real and only Occasion of the great Con-
 ‘ course of People, that is, of *Europeans*, to the
 ‘ Island of *Jamaica*: This by consequence, is the
 ‘ Occasion of such an unusual Trade thither for
 ‘ Provisions, as well from *England* as *Ireland*, and
 ‘ all the *British* Colonies on the Continent of *Ame-*
 ‘ *rica*.

‘ Were the Commerce of *Jamaica* only such as
 ‘ would depend upon the Plantation of the Colony
 ‘ only, the Number of Inhabitants especially at the
 ‘ Sea-Ports of that Island would be very few, com-
 ‘ pared to what now are to be found there: It
 ‘ need not be enlarged upon, that a great part of
 ‘ the Commerce from *Ireland*, *Maderas*, *New En-*
 ‘ *gland*, *New York*, *Fersey*, *Pensylvania*, *Virginia*,
 ‘ and *Carolina*, to *Jamaica*, is for Provisions, be-
 ‘ sides the large quantity which is carried from
 ‘ *London* and *Bristol*. Were the Colony of *Ja-*
 ‘ *maica* to maintain no People but its own Plan-
 ‘ ters, and a Proportion of Tradesmen to them, as
 ‘ other Islands do, the demand of Provisions,
 ‘ especially of Wine and Beer, Corn and Salted
 ‘ Fish, would be trifling, compared to what it
 ‘ now is.

‘ But the fitting out such Numbers of Ships,
 ‘ Sloops, &c. upon the private Trade, &c. and
 ‘ the concourse of Inhabitants, Merchants, Sea-
 ‘ men, &c. to that Hell upon Earth, that worse
 ‘ than *Sodom*, the City or Port near the Point at
 ‘ *Jamaica*, draws such a Multitude of People thi-
 ‘ ther, and demands such prodigious Quantities of
 ‘ Provisions of all sorts, but especially as above,
 ‘ that this Trade alone to *Jamaica* equals if not
 ‘ exceeds that of all our other Islands put together
 ‘ even in their most flourishing State.

‘ From

From this pass, come we to the great Quantity of *English* Woollen Manufactures which are continually carried to *Jamaica*, more perhaps than are sent of that Kind to all the Colonies the *British* Nation possesses in *America*. Where do this People pretend they are consum'd? Are the People, the Inhabitants of *Jamaica*, able to consume 4 or 500000*l.* a Year in Linen and Woollen Manufactures, or would the meer Planters of *Jamaica* do so if there were no more People there than would be as a Plantation?

The Question needs not to be offered, the *Jamaica* Merchants know very well what Trade they ship those Goods for, and that they are not for the Consumption of *Jamaica*, but for the *Spanish West-Indies*; that they are all for a Clandestine private Trade on the Coast of *Cartagena*, *St. Martha*, the Bay of *Honduras*, &c.

After what I have quoted, I believe the great Advantages gained to us by our Trade to *Jamaica*, is so apparent, that could I have seen it sooner, I might have spared a great many other Arguments and Proofs; for you see this Author has gone beyond me in almost every Particular of it; tho' (according to his Custom) he infers from those Advantages we receive, a greater Necessity to destroy it: But since his Manner and Interest in Writing is generally known, and has been evidently designed for mis-representing and ruining our Trade in all its Parts; 'tis not extraordinary to see him wrest the most contrary Conclusions from the clearest Facts: That he has done so here, I shall not say, but leave it to every Person to judge for himself, and only conclude with observing, that what is advanc'd by one with ill Views, may sometimes serve to set the Truth in a
E fuller

fuller and clearer Light, and contrary to the Intentions of the Author, illustrate that which was intended to be darkned, and in the end only expose his own villainous Designs, and make him odious to all Men of true Probity and Virtue.

June 30, 1714.

F I N I S.

E R R A T A.

PAG. 10. lin. 2. for from read in. p. 12. l. 2. for Trade read Money. p. 22. l. 15. for former read late. p. 30. l. 13. for these read their. p. 38. l. 18. read (after many) Women.

2/
A

TRUE. STATE
O F
Mr. *AYLMER*'s
Brief. NARRATIVE.
In a LETTER to—



L O N D O N :
Printed in the Year 1716.

A
TRUE STATE
OF
MR. WYLLMER'S
Brief Narrative
in a LETTER to —



LONDON
Printed in the Year 1716.

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LETTER, &c.

STR,



THE Paper you were so kind to send me I have shewn to the Gentlemen of *Jamaica*, whom Mr. *Aylmer* (very Wisely) had not favoured with a Sight, and they are very much surprized that he should endeavour to arrogate to himself the merit of doing any thing beneficial for that Island, and by Fallacies in his Narrative to delude People not fully acquainted with the Management of those Affairs into a prejudice against the present Governour and several worthy Gentlemen, both here and in *Jamaica*, as if they had not promoted, but endeavoured to obstruct the *Passing the Possession Law*, &c. And by the remarks made by those Gentlemen, have been enabled, and am desired to represent the Fallacies of Mr. *Aylmer's* Narrative, and set these Things in a true Light.

Mr. Aylmer's Narrative is no more than this; he begins by saying, he arrived in *November* 1709, and on the request to him by Letters of several Planters, did Solicite the passing the Act for quieting Possessions, &c. On the 18th of *August* 1712. Presented a Memorial at length Signed by the Gentlemen of *Jamaica* in *England*, but mentioned as delivered by himself; that afterwards he apply'd to the Attorney General on the said Bill; which there he drops, to run into another Affair without giving any further Account of that Bill, till almost the close of his Paper, and tells us he had wrote what he had done to his Friends in *Jamaica*, and that he was well informed that the Bill for regulating Fees, and some other Bills, were sent home without the Island's Seal, without distinguishing the different times of those Bills being sent from thence; takes Occasion to give a Copy of the Proceedings of the Council at *Jamaica* on the Paragraph of his Letters, dated *December* 1711. and *May* 1712; and the Reasons at large for the four Counsellors Voting such Letters were of an ill Tendency, and entered in the Council Book, and of the Five for not agreeing in that Vote: From these Reasons he endeavours to Justifie his Letters, and Enhance his own Merit in solely promoting afterwards the passing these Laws, and casts Reflections on Others by setting forth little Paragraphs without distinguishing from whom or on what Occasion sent, and afterwards draws them all in to bear a strict Relation to the Possession Bill: Endeavours to aggravate the Case of the Soldiers, and would from something said in Particular of

of a few Men make the Country averse to the Governour ; and gives us some little Scheme for the Easing the Island by disbanding the Soldiers, very Defective and Erroneous, and tending only to make the People of Jamaica uneasy under the present Governour, and unquiet for the future.

Having thus given as I conceive the Substance of Mr. *Aylmer's* Narrative without the Ornament of Style and Expression, shall now proceed to shew the Fallacy and ill Designs in the thing it self, and evidently make appear that Mr. *Aylmer* in patching up the Narrative made Use of that Way of Writing artful Men fall into, when they would make others believe what is known by themselves to be false in Fact, from a specious Manner of putting Circumstances and Things together, which are far different in the Time and the Occasion of them.

In order to do this, I shall state the truth of the Facts relating to the *Possession Law*, the *Act for regulating Fees, &c.* and the *Soldiers*, being the material Points in dispute, and observe upon Mr. *Aylmer's* Manner of representing them as I go on ; by which you will be able to Judge of his *Sincerity* and *Design* in that Narrative.

In the Year 1709, a Bill was transmitted from Jamaica by Major-General *Handasyd* then Governour, Entitled an Act for *quieting Possessions, &c.* Which being referred to Sir *James Mountague*, then Attorney General, now one of the Barons of the *Exchequer*, was for want of due Limitations and Restrictions in the wording, rejected in 1710. but with the Advice

vice of Sir *James Mountague*, how such an Act might be drawn and come recommended to her Majesty to be Passed. My Lord *Hamilton* succeeding Major-General *Handasyd* in his Government, brought with him Directions from the Lords Commissioners of Trade drawn in pursuance of Sir *James Mountague's* Opinion; my Lord arrived in July 1711, and in few Days met the Assembly, which had been called and appointed to meet at that time by his Predecessor; and the 31st of that Month he past such an Act, and transmitted it over the first opportunity to the Lords Commissioners of Trade, which arrived here in October following; and by Letters from the Lords Commissioners of Trade, dated the 23d of November 1711, their Lordships say, that Act was then under their Consideration. So that hitherto here is no Colour to imagine how any delay had been given: from the Governor or any Persons in *Jamaica* to this Bill, but on the contrary all the dispatch imaginable. How far the Gentlemen here concerned themselves will presently appear, as well as Mr. *Aylmer's* Conduct in it and his Narrative; but shall first mention the Case of the Bill of Fees, &c. being what Mr. *Aylmer* takes great occasion to exclaim against.

The Bill of Fees with some other Bills were sent over sometime before the Possession Act, and the great Seal of the Island omitted to be put to them; but these were transmitted before my Lord *Hamilton's* time, and that omission therefore no way chargeable on him, who on Advice of such a Failure did with all possible dispatch send the same over in due Form.

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This is in Reality the whole of what relates to these Bills, either from the Governour or the Gentlemen in *Jamaica*.

The Gentlemen of *Jamaica* upon Notice of the Arrival of the *Possession Act* here, immediately made a Subscription for a Sum of Money to carry on and press the passing the same, and Mr. *Aylmer's* Subscription is desired among the rest, but refused; however a Sum is advanc'd and a Solicitor ordered to get a Copy and to take care and forward the Passing the same, and directed to give them or some of them an Account of all steps relating thereto: Thus this Affair was managed by the Gentlemen of *Jamaica* jointly, Mr. *Aylmer* thought fit to act separately.

It appears very clear to me, that Mr. *Aylmer's* Letters (Paragraphs of which were so industriously spread about the Country) were wrote with a Design not only to gain himself a Credit there, as the only Man who had stirred in behalf of the Laws, &c. but without any the least Grounds, and on purpose to *disquiet the Minds of the Inhabitants of the Island*; and am Confirmed in this by what follows.

Having received an early Account of the Debates of the Council at *Jamaica* on these Letters, and being in Company with Mr. *Aylmer*, did without discovering I had such an Account, ask him whether he had a Copy of the *Possession Act*, or had attended the Board of Trade about it, or spoke to any Gentleman of *Jamaica* concerning it, when he wrote his Letter of the 30th of December, 1711. Which he owned he had not, as several then in Company very well remember, tho' afterwards

wards receiving an Account of that Affair, was very much nettled he had been drawn into a Confession that had exposed himself.

Now Sir, I desire you to observe, that Mr. Aylmer mentions his coming to London in Nov. 1709, and presented a Memorial in August 1712, and after wrote to let his Friends know what he had done, which Complaints of his in those Letters occasioned the Calling of a Council and the Proceedings therein; which he sets forth as Successively following and depending the one on the other, tho' quite otherwise: For 'tis plain that both Mr. Aylmer's Letters in question were wrote before the Memorial was presented, and when he wrote those Letters and Complaints as to the refusal of any Persons stirring for the Possession Act, and his own active Sollicitude in that Affair was entirely false, and wrote with the View above-mentioned; and the Complaints and manner of wording them, in Relation to the Bill of Fees sent home without the Island's Seal was malicious, and designed to reflect on Persons wholly unconcern'd in that Omission.

As these Facts therefore stand, even by his own Narrative on strict View, I appeal to any one, whether the four Counsellors had not reason to Vote, that those Paragraphs in Mr. Aylmer's Letters to Mr. Beckford had not a Tendency in them unnecessarily to disquiet the Minds of the Inhabitants of Jamaica in relation to the forwarding the passing the Possession Act.

Mr. Aylmer owns regard was had to the Act on the Memorial presented by himself, tho' he sets it forth Sign'd by all the Gentlemen whose Names

Names are placed at the End of it. We find the Board of Trade had this Bill under Consideration in November 1711. long before Mr. Aylmer applyed: Which had he done, no doubt so considerable a Man would have got it referr'd to the Attorney General before nine Months after; so his Neglect is very apparent.

The presenting this *Memorial*, of which he assumes the sole Honour, (how justly you'll soon judge) was in this Manner: It was thought adviseable by the Gentlemen of *Jamaica* to have such a *Memorial* drawn up, Signed and presented by them in a Body to the Lords Commissioners of Trade; and this *Memorial* was when drawn, to be left at the *Jamaica Coffee-House*, to be Signed by the Gentlemen of *Jamaica* who came there; which being thus Signed, was one Day carried privately from thence by Mr. Aylmer alone, and delivered into the Board of Trade, without advising or consulting with any of the Gentlemen equally concerned, who were surprized and dissatisfy'd Mr. Aylmer should use them in this Manner, having design'd to fix a Day to present it in a Body. But this agreed with his other Conduct, a desire of being thought the only Man would do any thing, and to reflect on all others. From this manner of presenting the *Memorial* and his Sollicitation, Mr. Aylmer would insinuate the *Possession Act* and other *Bills* afterwards received the Royal Assent.

If Mr. Aylmer on Account of his pretended Sollicitations will assume this to himself, I can confidently say, that from February or March 1713-4 there is another Person may more just-

ly assume the Reputation of Solliciting the passing, not only the *Possession Act* but the *Bill of Fees* than he can.

But to proceed: Mr. *Aylmer* has owned (notwithstanding what he said of them in his Letters) that the Gentlemen of *Jamaica* here did occasion a Regard to be taken for the passing of the *Possession Act*, and Mr. *Aylmer* himself heard Mr. *Rigby* argue for, and press the passing that Law and the *Bill of Fees*, before the Lords Commissioners for Trade, and the Attorney General; and knows he was the Person drew the Reasons for the Attorney General's Satisfaction in the reasonableness of the *Possession Law*; and if Sollicitations either with the Secretary of State, the Board of Trade or Attorney General, have been of any Weight for passing these Laws, 'tis Notorious that the Island is more obliged on that Account to Mr. *Rigby*, the Relations and Friends of Mr. *Brodrick*, Mr. *Stewart* and Mr. *Cockburn*, than to Mr. *Aylmer* or any of the Relations and Friends of Mr. *Beckford*, Mr. *Chaplyn* or Collonel *Blair*.

But tho' in answering Mr. *Aylmer* I have said this, yet I would not seem to entertain any thought that it was not the reasonableness of the Laws themselves, the Peace and Quiet, Encouragement and Encrease of the Island that induced the Lords Commissioners for Trade to recommend the passing these Laws to his Majesty.

It is an easy matter to make general insinuations and reflections on Persons without entering into particulars; and unless Mr. *Aylmer* had pointed out those Persons, and named the manner

manner how, I can never believe any Attempts were made to obstruct the passing these Laws, and imagine if Mr. *Aylmer* could have given any such Account, we should not have been left in the dark, since that would have been proving what he has used all the Art he is master of, to *insinuate* into the People of *Jamaica*; but he knows the contrary, and therefore leaves it upon general Reflections, which consequently shew the falsity of such Assertions.

I very well remember the two Gentlemen he mentions and himself giving in a short Representation to the Lords of Trade, praying the perusal of the Minutes of the Assembly in respect to their passing a *Law to prevent any one Person from holding two or more Offices of Profit within that Island*, and how instead of pursuing such Order they made use of it to examine other Papers transmitted from *Jamaica* concerning *Escheats*, which being observed by the Secretary or some other Person, a stop was put to it; and then it seems the Paragraph inserted by him was extracted from among those Papers to be brought in here as proofs of the present Governour's being against the *Possession Act*, and from hence declaims against him in a very extraordinary Manner; whereas I am well informed that Paragraph was part of a Letter from the late Governour; which being so, nothing can be a greater abuse upon the People of *Jamaica*, injury to the present Governour, or more scandalous and deceitful in it self, than this manner of tagging an Expression in a Letter writ long since by the late Governour to the present Case of passing the *Possession Act*, which every

one did what was in their Power to forward, and particularly the present Governour.

For in Justice to my Lord *Hamilton* (so much misrepresented by Mr. *Aylmer*) I must not here omit, that when the *Possession Act* was transmitted his Lordship recommended it in a most particular Manner to the Lords of Trade, for the Royal Assent, and likewise did from time to time write to the Earl of *Orkney* in very strong Terms, to endeavour by his Interest the getting this Law passed; as also prest it to his other Friends, and particularly desired Mr. *Thurston* to sollicite the same, even at the expence of a considerable Sum on his Lordship's Account.

What Mr. *Aylmer* means by the Governour's *plundering under the Notion of Escheats*, I can't imagine, (unless he is conscious of assisting in that himself when he endeavoured to make *Escheateable* several *Negroes* belonging to Colonel *Lloyd*, tho' not able to make out the same) for Mr. *Aylmer* very well knows there is a Law of the Country which prescribes the manner of making *Escheats*, so that it is not in the Governour's power to *Escheat*, but according to that Law, which is look'd upon to be an advantageous one to the Island; tho' Mr. *Aylmer* has seem'd very well pleas'd with the Suspension of it for some late Years, that Suspension having lessen'd, as he thought, the profits of the Governour: But this *plundering* was an odious Expression against Governours, and therefore to be cramm'd in right or wrong.

After what Mr. *Aylmer* has before said with Justice of the present Board of Trade, 'tis surprizing

prizing he should mention with dislike, that new Instructions were sent to the Governour of *Jamaica* on his Majesty's Accession, and the alterations made at such time in the *Council* of that Island, which he would insinuate was from a pique of the Governour, &c. whereas 'tis known to every one the Governour has not power to appoint any of the *Council* there, but the same is done here immediately by his Majesty on the recommendation of the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations.

Mr. *Aylmer* tells us indeed, that Mr. *Chaplyn* and Colonel *Blair* are Persons of known Integrity, well affected to the present Establishment, and of good Estates in that Island; I shall not dispute any of these Characters, but must not omit saying, that the Persons now in the Council bear an equal share at least in each part of that Character; and however Mr. *Chaplyn* and Colonel *Blair* may deserve the highest Commendation from him and such Well-wishers to the Welfare of *Jamaica*, it may be there are others who have truly its Interest at Heart, that (so far from the highest) do not think them deserving any commendation for their Behaviour in the publick Councils of *Jamaica* for some Years past; and tho' perhaps Mr. *Aylmer* may not think their procedure in Voting can be any just Reason, there may be Persons that do think it sufficient; what reasons his Majesty had for leaving them out, I do not pretend to say, but shall think just Reasons were assigned till Mr. *Aylmer* prove the contrary.

As

As I have ever found Mr. *Aylmer's* Enmity against the *Soldiers* very great, his exclaiming on that Head does not surprize me ; tho' he would alarm the Inhabitants of *Jamaica* by representing what *clandestine Methods*, as he terms them, were used to their prejudice, and contrary (he would insinuate) and against the *Opinion* of the *Assembly* in their *Address* ; to make out which, he first mentions the *Address* of *January 1713.* and afterwards gives a short Paragraph of the *Governour's Letter* without the date or what introduces that Paragraph, which I shall therefore do for him.

My Lord *Hamilton* in a Letter dated the 10th of *October 1712.* to the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations writes, ' That the *Negroes* had lately cut in pieces ' two White Men in open Day, and he cannot but from this Consideration propose the ' Necessity of continuing some Regular Forces, ' at least for some time after the Peace, or until the Island can reap the Benefit of it by ' an Addition of White People there ; or otherwise the Island may be liable to some unlucky disaster by an Insurrection.

And in the said Letter his Lordship further adds, ' That from what he says, he believes, ' the Board will be of Opinion that they are ' not altogether fit to be left by themselves, ' and that at least 300 Men, which might be ' independent Companies and of much less Charge to her Majesty, would be Necessary ' in time of Peace to Garrison the Forts, and ' keep other Guards, to which he attributes ' much of the Quiet the Island has hitherto ' enjoyed.

And

And afterwards in a Letter of the 27th of the same Month, both which Letters came by the same Conveyance, he says, ' That if any ' Thing like what he had the Honour to write ' their Lordships in his last Letter should be ' resolved on, he was perswaded the Country ' will chearfully go into it, notwithstanding ' the factious Endeavours of a Few, who ' have never been satisfied with any Government.

Thus we see the same Candour that induced Mr. Aylmer to put his *Memorial* in August 1712. before the Minutes of the Council in Jamaica, or his Letters of December 1711, and May 1712. prevailed with to give the same Turn to this *Address* and Letter; by which it plainly appears Mr. Aylmer would reflect on his Lordship as acting counter to the Good and Interest of Jamaica, or in direct Terms writing against that *Address*; whereas you see the Truth is, my Lord in his Letter long before that *Address* endeavours to ease the Island of its Charge by lessening the Number of Officers, and yet keeping up the private Men for the security of it.

But this fallacious and ungentlemanlike Writing is in every part of Mr. Aylmer's Narrative so evident that I shall not longer insist on it, making this Observation, that he shows in all this Paper and his own Proceedings, a Design willfully and unnecessarily to deceive and disquiet the Minds of the Inhabitants of Jamaica, who might not, as he perhaps imagin'd, have the means or the leisure to detect the Fallacies he has endeavoured to impose on them.

Mr.

Mr. *Aylmer* makes an extraordinary Exclamation on the latter part of the Paragraph of my Lord's Letter of the 27th of *October* 1712. and calls it a *fine Character indeed* ! Which upon his first seeing he very frankly declared here was said of himself and two other Persons he named, tho' he would turn it on the Island.

But to be more serious : I observe Mr. *Aylmer* mentions the *Planting Interest* being taxed in the same Manner, and with the same design some Men have here the *Landed*, in Contradistinction to the *Trader*, tho' *Trade* in *Jamaica* as well as here has always born its share in the Support of the Government, and for maintaining Parties against *Rebellious Negroes*, &c. which is so well known, I need not instance the particular Duties on Importations and Exportations.

Mr. *Aylmer* has likewise given us a *Memorandum* pretended to be laid before the *Parliament*, whence he would infer it was design'd to make Laws for that Island here, but omits giving any Account from what Office, and by whom such *Memorandum* came, because he might imagine it would be traced ; for my part I examined all the Papers laid before the House on that Occasion, and do not remember any such, and am sure the Gentlemen who prest and desired the two independent Companies in *Jamaica*, till the *Assembly* had made some Provision for their own Security by continuing the *Deficiency Law*, and making some Laws for the Encouragement of White People to come and reside there, did not intend, but were far from any such Thoughts ; nor was it
ever

ever mentioned in the *House*, or I believe thought of, only broached by Mr. *Aylmer* as his Fears; so that he first mentioned it, and now would turn it on others who never imagin'd any thing like it, which is Mr. *Aylmer's* manner of expressing his Fears of Men's Designs, to render them odious, and argue from thence against them as if they had those Designs.

I now come to the material Part of Mr. *Aylmer's* Narrative, where I take it the Question in dispute is, *whether the Soldiers are not unnecessary and a Grievance to the Inhabitants of Jamaica?* Which Mr. *Aylmer* would perswade us to, and consequently terms those Enemies who have endeavoured to continue them there.

I must now appeal to Mr. *Aylmer* whether the Number of *White Men* is 2000, or the *Negroes* less than 80000, which must very much endanger the Island even from an Insurrection, not to mention the frequent Insults and Ravages by the landing of Pyrates, &c. and all this in Peace. If then the Island is not in a Condition to secure its own quiet and safety in Peace, much less in War without these Soldiers, or until a sufficient Number of *White Men* shall be in the Island to secure it by its own Strength; and how shall this be effected? It must be by obliging the Planters to keep a *White Man* for a certain Number of *Negroes*, or to pay for a Deficiency, and by making Laws for the inviting and encouraging *White People* to come and reside there.

But this is not done, and the Government must take care to preserve the Island till it be; and those Men who are so much against the

Soldiers remaining there, have been the least enclined to secure the Island any other way : It was at the request of the Inhabitants, and for their security King *William* sent the Soldiers, and I am sure Mr. *Aylmer* must own that White People have very much decreased in *Jamaica* since that time, and consequently more occasion for the Soldiers.

For my Part, I must own I am for the Security of the Island in the first Place, and should be very well pleased it were secured by its own Strength in the Number of its Inhabitants; but since not so, am desirous the Security from the Soldiers may continue till it can. How Mr. *Aylmer's* wild extravagant Scheme (were it put in Practice) would do, that I leave to every one who understands *Jamaica*, and the Charge of carrying over White People thither; but some Persons have no farther Thought than getting rid of, or railing at the present Charge, without providing for the Security of the Island otherwise.

Whether Mr. *Aylmer* really intended the Good of *Jamaica*, or only a popular Applause to himself for pretended Services, and gratified his Spleen in railing Invectives against others by false Representations of Things, I believe will not be difficult to discover : And if the Inhabitants of *Jamaica* look on him as the Man who promoted all those arbitrary and illegal Proceedings in some Assemblies, or at least joined in or approved them; who endeavoured and solicited the making Free by Act of Parliament Negroes and their Families, (which he was disappointed in, by the Opposition he met with from Colonel *Loyd* and some other Gentlemen

tllemen here in that Bill, who foresaw the prejudicial Consequences of it;) his own clandestine Manner in delivering the *Memorial*; and his Method in contriving his Narrative, purely to *deceive and disquiet the Minds of the Inhabitants*; they will look on him with another View than when the Assembly pass'd a Law, (which was rejected by the Council) for appointing seven of the Assembly to depute an Agent (who 'tis said was to have been Mr. *Aylmer*) to sollicite the passing such Laws, and doing such other publick Affairs of *Jamaica* in *Great Britain*, as he should be instructed by the said Number seven, or any three of them.

Thus, Sir, have I examin'd the Heap of Malice and Falshood couched in the several Parts of Mr. *Aylmer's* Paper, and I hope cleared the Governour and other worthy Gentlemen from those *Aspersions*, he would by giving such *unfair Relation of Things insinuate against them*.

I have here given the true State of what I have related, and hope where I have reason'd I have not been much out; shall now only protest, that no Regard of my own for any particular Men or Interest (tho' I have many Friends, and a Brother, and some other Concerns there) nor any Resentment or Spleen against Mr. *Aylmer* or any others, have induced me to say what I have done on this or any other Occasion, but it has wholly proceeded from a Regard to the true Interest and Welfare of *Jamaica*, abstracted from all other Views, and some Warmth in seeing Things set in false Lights, to the prejudice of the Country, and the Gentlemen who have always endeavoured its real Prosperity. I

I have not hitherto, nor hope shall not for the future regard any Man's Person in Things of this Nature, but only the Tendency of their Actions; and when they are for the good of their Country, shall always esteem and honour them, but when otherwise, shall not be led by a blind, mercenary, interested Devotion.

I heartily ask your Pardon for this great Trouble, but being acquainted with your Readiness to forgive, and Desire of true Information in Matters which may assist you in the Service of your Country, was embolden'd in it, and doubt not but so valuable an Island as *Jamaica* will reap the Benefit of your Regard, and am with great Truth and Respect,

S I R,

Your most obedient, and

most humble Servant,

London,

Jan. 4. 1715-16.

WILLIAM WOOD.

ERRATA.

Page 4. line 6. after *Memorial*, read *which he gives.*

A
V I E W
 OF THE
PROCEEDINGS
 OF THE
Assemblies of Jamaica,
 For some Years past.

With some Considerations on the
Present STATE of that ISLAND ;
 In Several
OCCASIONAL PAPERS.

Earnestly Recommended to the Planters, Traders, and Freeholders of Jamaica.

L O N D O N :

Printed in the Year M. DCC. XVI:

WILLIAM
OF THE
PROCEEDINGS

Archbishops of Armagh

For Some Years Past

Will the Archbishop of Armagh

Occasional Papers

Respectfully Recommended to the Readers, The
Dear and Learned of Armagh

W. D. O. M.

Printed in the Year M. DCC. LXX.



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T H E
P R E F A C E.

HAVING Resided in Jamaica some Years at different Times, and been Conversant in the Business of that Island; both there, and in Great Britain, have had the Opportunity to be acquainted with the Interest thereof, and from time to time made some Observations how it was to be pursued, or discouraged; and on several Occassions to particular Gentlemen, express my self fully thereon, as well in Writing, as Discourse.

And having lately seen how industrious some Men are to misrepresent the Affairs of that Island, am induc'd from a true Concern for the Good of Jamaica, to Publish the following Papers; which were writ at the Times mention'd, and in the Order they are placed; either at the particular desire of some Gentlemen, or for the Information of others.

And if in the Perusal of them, it shall appear that my Lord Hamilton's Conduct is to be Justified in Proroguing and afterwards Dissolving the Assembly, which met the 26th Novemb. 1713. and the 2d of Decemb. 1714. (as it appears to have been by the Lords of Trade, in their Letter of the 15th April, 1715. and by the Council of Jamaica, by their Report of the 12 November last) then all that has been Objected against my Lord Hamilton, or his Advisers, must fall upon the Leaders in those Assemblies,

semblies, who proceeded in so Unpresidented and Unwarrantable a manner.

It is none of the least Misfortunes attending Jamaica, that it is conceived by the Inhabitants, the Governor (tho' not the least foot-steps of it do appear) has a distinct Interest from the Country; and that such Persons who are constantly Opposers of Governors, are its best Friends. These Notions can only proceed from a too partial and narrow manner of thinking, and clog the Wheels of Action, and cause the Publick Business to go on with struggle and difficulty. And it is obvious to discern, that they must not only weaken the strength of the Island, but lay the Foundation of worser Evils.

Therefore the Leaders in these Assemblies (even when there has been more Money than sufficient in the hands of the Commissioners for receiving the Additional Duties on Goods Imported and Exported) have been against giving any part of that Money into the Treasury, for Discharging the Publick Debts, and Supporting the Honour of the Government, because recommended by the Governor; tho' as the Assembly Audit the Receit and Payment of all Publick Moneys, and thereby see what Branches of the settled Revenue prove deficient, and Extraordinary Charges occur, and that the Governor has not the keeping or disposal thereof, but is appropriated for such and such Purposes by the Assembly, 'tis something strange they should act thus, when by the present Constitution of the Island, 'tis incumbent on them to give such Necessary Sums as are wanted, and the Neglect thereof may hazard that happy Constitution they now enjoy.

It is insinuated by some particular Gentlemen here, that my Lord Hamilton has not been contending with a few Men, but with the Island it self. That those who have been Elected and made the Majority in the Three last Assemblies, have been Persons he did not approve, as acting contrary to his supposed Interest, or refusing to do what has been recommended by him. But instead of this General Insinuation, they ought to have shewn particular Instances wherein my Lord refus'd or disagreed with them in any thing that was for the Publick Good of Jamaica; or press'd and recommended any thing that

was.

The P R E F A C E.

V

was prejudicial, or not necessary; otherwise their Charge against my Lord, must be wholly Groundless, and turn upon themselves, if he has only disagreed with them, because they have acted against and neglected the Interest of the Country. And I shall only further say, that among the many Misfortunes have befallen Jamaica, I have lamented it as a very great one, that the Freeholders (especially in the most distant parts of the Island from the Seat of Government and Chief Towns of Trade) have been worked upon to such a degree, as to Elect Persons who have by their Conduct exposed the Inhabitants and the Island it self to the greatest Dangers. But as no Man in Jamaica can Vote for an Assembly-Man, but a Landed Man, Owner of any House or Piece of Land of the Value of Forty Shillings a Year. We all know how easie the Populace are to be managed; and are sometimes seduced, without all reason, to follow those who set up to lead them; and when things come to be represented, not as they truly are, but as it serves the Purposes of Designing Men; what can be expected, but that the Body of the People should be mislead, and become zealous and even furious, they know not why, and be ready to Sacrifice their Security and preservation to their own unreasonable Fears and Resentment.

My Lord Clarendon has a Passage which I think applicable to Jamaica, and it may not be amiss to give it here: "It is true (says he) Men of Activity and Faction, in any Design, have many Advantages that a Composed and Settled Council tho' industrious enough, usually have not, and some that Gallant Men cannot give themselves leave to entertain, even for the prevention of all the Mischiefs that others intend; and whosoever observes the ill acts by which these Men used to prevail upon the People in general; their absurd ridiculous Lying to win the Affections and corrupt the Understandings of the Weak, and the bold Scandals to confirm the wilful; the boundless Promises they presented to the Ambitious, and their gross abject Flatteries and Applications to the vulgar Spirited, would hardly give himself leave to use those Weapons for the preservation of the three Kingdoms.

What.

What I have said in these Papers, or upon any other Occasion, has been with a sincere and hearty Design to promote the Publick Good of Jamaica, abstracted from any private prejudices to particular Persons, or other Views, than endeavouring, as far as I have been able, to set those Affairs and the true Interest of Jamaica in a just Light; and hope I may be excused if I have with some warmth defended several Gentlemen, whose Actions have always tended to the Peace and Prosperity of Jamaica, tho' misrepresented by the Malice and Calumnies of their Adversaries.

If I have not mistaken any Fact of which I am not Conscious, hope this will be some alarm to those Persons who have been deceived, and they will lose no time in retrieving Jamaica; but endeavour by the most proper Methods to advance it to a Safe and Flourishing Condition; which being the only end of the subsequent Pages, shall say no more, than that I desire they may be seriously Consider'd without prejudice, and the Publick Good be immediately pursued by all in their several Stations; which is the only Means to recover Jamaica from its present declining and low Condition, and render it a Rich, Populous and Flourishing Island.





A

V I E W
OF THE
PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
Assemblies of *Jamaica*, &c.

Denston Hall, June 30th, 1714.

S I R,

THE last Accounts from *Jamaica*, I agree with you, give us but a very bad prospect of what that *Island* may suffer by their Divisions among themselves, and Neglect of what is necessary to be done for its Security and Preservation.

As you express your self by your Letter, very much concern'd at its present Condition, and desirous to be Inform'd fully therein, to know from whom or what Causes these violent Proceedings and Neglect of the Publick Safety in the *Last Assembly proceeds*; I have for your Satisfaction,

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tisfaction, during some leifure Hours here, recollected and fet before you in one View, the beft Account I can.

For which purpose, 'twill be neceffary to confider the Proceedings of fome former Affemblies; tho' I fhall not look farther back than the laft, in Major General *Handafyde's* Time.

There were then many Debts due from the Government to feveral Perfons, and Fifteen Months Salary to the Governor, (who was every day expected to be fucceeded by the Lord *Archibald Hamilton*) and accordingly the fupplying thofe Exigencies of the Government, were earneftly recommended to that *Assembly*; but the *Majority* therein, being then of much the fame Kidney as *the laft*, did refufe to enable the *Treafury* to answer the fame effectually, or indeed in any manner, having tack't to the *Money-Bill* (which of it felf was very much fhort of what was neceffary) another *Bill* for preventing any one Perfon from holding the Offices of *Provost Marshal* and *Secretary*; made without proof of any Inconveniencies arifing from the fame, or Complaints in the manner of Executing them; which *Bill* they knew the Governor and Council would not pafs in that manner.

This obliged the Governor to Prorogue them for fome days, from which, and partly apprehending a Diffolution, they came to a better Temper, defifted from their former Tack, and gave into the *Treafury* One Third more than they had before granted,

But nevertheless they afterwards refufed or declined entring upon or effecting fuch other publick Buſineſs, as was abſolutely neceffary, and for which they had been called together (*viz.*) Subſiſting the *Soldiers*, effectually fupplying the Exigencies of the Government, making fuch neceffary Laws as were wanting for the Welfare of the *Island*, whereby Major General *Handafyde* found himſelf obliged to diſſolve them, and call a New one.

Some Days before the Time prefixt for the *Assembly's Meeting*, the Lord *Archibald Hamilton* arrived as Governor; who finding the Affairs of the *Island*, and Neceſſities of the Government required their immediate Sitting, Met them at the Day appointed, and after having approved the Choice of *William Brodrick* Eſq; Attorney General for their Speaker, made a Speech fuitable to

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the Occasion, the Necessities of the Government, and the Condition of the Island; wherein, among other things his Lordship represented to them the State of the Treasury, and Decay of the Queen's House, then very ruinous, recommended the making effectual Provision for the Deficiency of the publick Treasury, the repairing and preserving the Queens House, continuing the additional Subsistence to the *Soldiers* (which in former Assemblies had been always cavilled at by particular Men) and such other things as were necessary and would conduce to the Safety and Welfare of the Island.

The *Majority* of this *Assembly*, at that time, was composed of Men of the best Capacities and Fortunes in the Island, who understood its Condition, and what Difficulties the Government was under, and how much the Island had suffered by the *Prejudices* and *Mistakes* of some *Leaders* in former *Assemblies*, with the ill Consequences likely to ensue from thence if not timely prevented; therefore acted as Men resolved to pursue the Interest of their Country to support the Government and do what was necessary for the Welfare of the Island.

Accordingly, they immediately took my Lord's Speech into Consideration, appointed *Committees* to Examine and Report the State of the *Treasury*, and Condition of the Queens House, in a few days passed the Bill for granting the Additional Subsistence to the *Soldiers*; and upon the Report of the Committee of the State of the Treasury, and that the Queen's House could not be made Tenable under 2000*l.* the *Assembly* gave into the *Treasury* for answering the Deficiency thereof, and Repairing the Queens House, 5000*l.*

But tho' the *Majority* was then, as I have observed, sincerely disposed to serve their Country; there were nevertheless several Persons in that Assembly, who made it their Endeavour to obstruct, disturb and frustrate the good Intentions of the others; and notwithstanding such Report, that the *Treasury* was deficient a considerable Sum, and that the settled Revenue could not answer it in any time (much less pay the Salary due to the Governor, and growing Demands on the Government) and the aforesaid Ruinous Condition of the Queens House; yet at first opposed the giving any Money into the Treasury, which when they found they were not able to carry, laboured to have had the Sum granted 2000*l.* in

lieu of 5000*l.* which from what is already said, appears, would have been very insufficient.

This Assembly in two Sessions seemed (as to the *Majority*) to be zealous in defence of the Trade of the Island, and the Liberties of its Inhabitants, and desirous to render it effectual Service by the Encouragement of the increase of White People in it, for its further Settlement, and several good Laws were made, as *The Possession Act*, &c. Tho' in all these (and some other Schemes I have seen intended for the Service of *Jamaica*, but prevented for want of a good Disposition in some Persons to contribute thereto) they were continually opposed by a particular Set of Men who opposed many Propositions made for the good of the Island, and even acted to the prejudice of it in the most glaring manner, in taking part with and becoming Advocates for *Sr. Hovendon Walker* against my Lord *Archibald Hamilton*; whose Dispute with the Admiral was not Personal, but in maintenance of that Power and Authority intrusted to him by the Queen, the Securing the Trade of the Island, and Defending the Liberties of the Inhabitants; all which were violated, and the Island endanger'd by the Admiral's Proceedings, in forcing Men illegally, from the Sloops and Trading Vessels of the Island, contrary to the express Laws of *Jamaica*, and of *Great Britain*, thereby rendering the Country defenceless, interrupting their Trade, and highly infringing on the Liberties of the People.

In these two Sessions and before the third, several Members dyed, Sickness detained others at home, and necessary Affairs obliged some to come for *England*, whereby the *Majority*, who had acted so much in Conformity to the Good of the Island, and in every thing maintained that Unanimity and Concordance with the Governor and Council, so necessary for the dispatch of Publick Business, were very much lessened; and the contrary Party being very vigilant and active, had gained over others, so that the good Disposition for the publick Service, so remarkable in the two former Sessions, was at the third wanting, and this by the afore-mentioned Causes, without any Ground or Foundation given on the part of the Governor.

At the Opening of the third Sessions (*October the 1st 1713.*) the Governour, agreeable to his Behaviour from the

the first, for the Good of the Island, made a Speech to the Assembly, wherein he says:

WE have now no Foreign Enemy to struggle with, and your prudent and timely Care, will put it out of the Power of all others to hurt You.

The inviting and encouraging Artificers and Tradesmen, in which the Strength of a Colony so much consists, to come and settle amongst Us, will deserve your particular Consideration, especially at this time, when the Power of our Neighbours is already formidable, and like to increase.

As for my part, I shall most heartily and readily concur with you in Passing what Laws shall be offer'd to Me for the Publick Good and Safety of the Island, the Incouragement of the fair Trader, and promoting the Planting Interest, no ways doubting, but a due Regard will be had in all your Proceedings, to Her Majesties Honour, and the Prerogative of the Crown.

Gentlemen of the Assembly, The Fund intended to be raised by the Act for providing an Additional Subsistence for her Majesties Officers and Soldiers, falling greatly short this Year, there is a considerable Arrear due to them, the paying of which, and providing for their further Subsistence, which, by the Reduction Her Majesty has already thought fit to make, will be more easy than formerly, but requires your immediate Care.

The Additional Duty Bill, likewise, expiring at the same time with the other, the providing for Parties and other Exigencies of the Government's Subsisting, you will, I conceive, find it necessary to continue that Fund.

I am sorry, I am oblig'd to acquaint you that the Revenue lies under many Anticipations. Confirm'd Experience has found it far from being equal to the necessary Expence of the Government, abstracting from the Contingent Charges thereof.

The Receiver General's and other Accounts, which will be laid before You, will make this Evidently appear, and I question not, give full Satisfaction, that the Money appropriated last Year to the Revenue has been applyed to the Ends for which it was given.

The Prosperity and Happiness of this Colony, whilst Her Majesty is pleased to continue me at the Head of it, shall be my utmost Care and Application, no Man's Liberty or Property by Acts of Power, restrained or invaded; and every Dutiful and Loyal Subject, as far as in me lies, Countenanc'd and Cherish'd. It remains only for me further on this Occasion, to recommend to You most earnestly, Unanimity and good Agreement amongst your Selves, that no private Animosities or Disputes obstruct the publick Service, that this may prove a short and happy Sessions.

Tho' this Speech was most Pathetick, Comprehensive, and Weighty in every part, yet the Disposition of the Assembly was (by the means aforesaid) so much altered, that the Question of its being taken into Consideration, was carried by the Speaker's Vote only. As was also the ordering of a Bill for continuing the additional Substinance to the Soldiers, the number of the Assembly being reduced, and the Adverse Party, having gained at least an equal number in the House, thought fit rather to absent themselves, and thereby disable it from doing Business, (there being by the standing Rules and Orders of the House, a certain number required for transacting publick Affairs, passing Laws, &c.) than directly to refuse the granting Substinance to the Soldiers, or supporting the publick Credit, then absolutely necessary; by which Proceeding of theirs, nothing was done, or likely to be done, by this Sessions; wherefore the Governour calling a Council, did by their Advice, Dissolve the Assembly, and immediately issued Writs for chusing another, which it was hoped would have been chosen of such Men as had the real Interest and Service of the Island at Heart.

But during the time of the last Assembly, there had not been wanting Men who had charged those who acted for the Service of the Island and Support of the Government, with oppressing the Inhabitants by unnecessary Impositions, and endeavoured to raise a Clamour against them, and make a Merit at the same time to themselves in opposing the granting any Moneys, by which, and reflecting on the other Gentlemen who they alledged made Advantages out of the publick Moneys, stick-

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led for the appropriating the Title of Patriots to themselves (tho' as appears above, they had acted with a different Character) and endeavoured to brand those who were really so, with the Title of Enemies to the Island; and as the Generality of Mankind, rather see the present hardships on their private Interest, than have Views large enough to set that aside for the publick Good, 'tis not to be wondered that the Inhabitants of *Jamaica* were partly ensnared by these Insinuations; and having had from these pretended Patriots Assurances, that the chusing them, would be saving the Charge of Subsisting the *Soldiers*, and being at the Election very much incensed, by a most egregious, false, and scandalous Paper, Printed here, and dispers'd there against that time, in every Parish, under the Title of, *Some of the many Grievances of Jamaica*, meerly calculated and put together, to prejudice the Freeholders against the Governor, and those Gentlemen, who best understood, and acted most for the true Interest of the Country: Such Persons were chosen for the next Assembly as were likely to do the Publick as little Service as possible, to spend their Time and Inclinations in gratifying their private Piques and Prejudices, and distressing the Government.

Thus, by these Means, and with these Views, chosen and returned, the Assembly met on the 26th of *November*, 1713. to whom the Governour having approved the Choice of *Mr. Peter Beckford* for Speaker, made a Speech, wherein he says,

Gentlemen of the Assembly,

THE Additional Duty Bill being expir'd, You will, I conceive, find the same Occasion of continuing that Law as formerly.

' The Act for Quartering Her Majesties Officers and Soldiers being likewise at an end, and that Fund falling very far short last Year, of answering the Ends for which it was given; there is a considerable Arrear now become due, the paying of which being so just, and of such Importance to the publick Credit, I hope, I need but mention it to you.

' The continuing likewise of Substinance to the Regiment here, till her Majesty shall think fit to recal it (which I have good Grounds to believe will be soon, tho' I have not Authority to say so) must appear so

reasonable and necessary to every unprejudiced Person, that I should think it were giving You some cause of Offence, to believe it can admit of a Debate amongst You.

How the Money given last Year has been applyed, is in your own Power to see, and you will find by the State of the Revenue, that it is considerably in Debt; what shall be found necessary for its Supply, and the Support of the Government for the ensuing Year, I must recommend to your Care to provide.

I shall not detain you longer, but earnestly recommend to you at this time, to lay aside all Animosities and Disagreements, approving your selves in the true Interest of the Country, inseparable from that of the Crown.

On the 2d of December, the Assembly presented an Adress, wherein they say,

May it please your Excellency,

WE Her Majesties most Dutiful and Loyal Subjects, the Assembly of this Her Majesty's Island of *Jamaica*, being highly sensible of the many and great Favours we have received from Her Majesty, shall earnestly with Our utmost Zeal shew Our Gratitude, by doing all things in Our Power for Her Majesty's Service.

Whatsoever the last Years Fund for Quartering Her Majesty's Officers and Soldiers has fallen short, We have agreed shall be fully supplied, and We have Resolv'd, That all such Officers and Soldiers as have any manner of Occasion for an additional Subsistence, shall be provided for, for six Months, from the first Day of *November*, 1713. if they so long continue under Pay in this Island.

The Consideration of what relates to supplying the Revenue, and to the supporting the Government for the ensuing Year, as also to the raising an Additional Duty, We have deferr'd till the Publick Accounts shall be stated.

We Return your Excellency Our most Hearty Thanks for Your Lordship's Speech, and shall pursue that good Agreement amongst our Selves which your Excellency recommends, and in Our whole Proceedings we shall strive to demonstrate Our Duty to Her most

most Sacred Majesty, Our Obedience and Deference to your Excellency, Our Regard to the Island, and Our good Will to One Another.

By this, Sir, you observe the Governor's Speech points out Matter abundant for the Consideration of the Assembly, and that, by their Address, they promise to Answer the Ends of it: How far they made the same good you are fully inform'd by the Minutes of their Proceedings, which you, with other Gentlemen of *Jamaica* here, having had the perusal of, 'tis not necessary, and indeed would be too tedious to enter into a particular Detail of them; I shall only therefore mention the most extraordinary, and take the Liberty to give you my Thoughts thereon, with the tendency of the whole, in relation to *Jamaica*; which I think may be reduced to these five Heads.

1. Their declaring in the Bill pass'd for Subsisting the Soldiers, that they should be only Subsisted to the First of *May* then next, and no longer, without previously knowing Her Majesty's Plesure therein, or having before made any Representation or Address to Her Majesty or the Governour thereon; which Bill the Governour was obliged to pass thus, otherwise the Soldiers must have had no Subsistence.

2. Their passing a Law for empowering Seven of the Assembly to depute Agents for Soliciting the publick Affairs of *Jamaica* in *Great Britain*; as passing Laws, &c. they should be instructed by the Seven, or any Three of them, and applying 1200*l.* for that Purpose.

3. Their bringing in a Bill (pretended to be) for the more equal and due Execution of the several Offices of Profit in that Island, in spleen to particular Persons, without any just Foundations; and immediately after the same Bill, tho' with a different Title, had on a full Examination here been rejected, as proceeding from those Motives.

4. Their passing a Bill for Regulating Ministers, whereby they invaded the Rights of the Church of *England*, occasione Reflections on, and treated the the Sacred Function

Function with Disrespect, and set up an unrepresented Authority contrary to all Law and Reason.

5. Shewing so much private Spleen, Passion and Prejudice, in passing hard Votes against several worthy Gentlemen, without just Cause, or a due Cognizance of the pretended Offences; assuming an unrepresented and illegal Power of ordering Persons into Custody for Matters trivial, and not cognizable by them, and pretending to Privileges destructive to the Liberties of the Subject, and no ways appertaining to them; and even to a Power of Adjourning themselves for a Month by their own Authority.

As to the First Head, I shall only say, it plainly shews the Assembly were not for the Soldiers being continued, and acted in a very extraordinary manner after the good Services received from them. I shall not here enlarge upon the Necessity of their being there, or the present Condition of the Island, with respect to them, having fully, in a former Letter to you, considered their Case; which with some other Letters on the Affairs of *Jamaica* have since been Printed, under the Title of *The Assiento Contract Consider'd, &c.* to which I refer you.

As to the 2d Head, 'Tis very extraordinary, that when the Assembly complain of the Money rais'd upon the Subject for necessary Services, they should give such a Sum of 1200*l.* (leaving the absolute Necessities of the Government unprovided for) purely for the maintaining of Persons to keep up the Spirit of Party in the Island, and to prosecute their own Designs at the publick Charge.

For if there was a Necessity to appoint an Agent by such a Bill for managing the Affairs of the Island, that Bill ought to have been worded in another manner, and not have excluded the Governor and Council (who 'tis presumed are as capable of advising what's proper for the Good of the Island as any 7 or 3 Assembly Men) as the Assembly have done, and confined the whole Direction and Instruction of such Agents to themselves; whereas 'tis very well known that the Governor being the Crown's Executive and Ministerial Officer, from whom it receives Informations concerning the State of the Island, &c. his Advice, Representation and Information is supposed to be of weight in all Matters that con-

cern the Island ; and being generally a Person of Character, has an Interest with the Ministry, therefore ought to have had some share in Appointing and Directing these Agents: But as this was acted with private Views, they were Governed only by such Considerations, when even the Customary Supplies for maintaining Parties against Rebellious Negroes were not given, tho' absolutely necessary, and other the Exigencies of the Government unprovided for.

The Third Head I think is Answer'd in the Stating of it, and more evidences the Pique and Passion they acted by ; and here I must take Notice, that some Gentlemen at the time they labour'd to get the *former rejected Law* confirm'd, deliver'd to the Lords of Trade a long Paper wherein were many Reflections on the Administration of the late and present Governor, and on Mr. *Rigby*, Mr. *Brodrick*, &c.

Some Facts in this Paper were entirely false, every thing set forth, designedly misrepresented ; and when the Persons who gave in the same, were desired to name any one Fact and prove it, they excused themselves ; and had not these Gentlemen been actuated by Spleen and Passion, they could never have deliver'd such a Paper as Reasons for Confirming that Law, when the Assembly at the passing it, were so far from having any Facts before them to shew any unequal or undue Execution had been in the Offices of Secretary and Provost Marshal in Mr. *Rigby's* time : That on a Hearing before the whole House, they came to a Resolution in Mr. *Rigby's* Favour, and to his Honour ; so that such Law was not wanted for the good of the Island, but brought in out of prejudice to Mr. *Rigby*, merely to deprive him of the Deputation of the Secretary's Office,

In their *Bill for Regulating Ministers*, very great Reflections undeserv'd, and without any previous Examination or Censure (as in the former Case of Mr. *Rigby*) are made on the Clergy, and the Assembly assume a Power the Ecclesiastick Judges never pretended to, and would by this Bill (which is very extraordinary, considering they are for taking away, as far as possible, in all other respects the Prerogative of the Crown) set up an Authority in the Governor contrary to Law, and superior to the Crown's, here, in such Cases, and this without any just foundation, and at a time when the Reverence

verence due to that Character is not well kept up in the Island, and of the 17 Parishes there, for want of Incumbents the Divine Service is not perform'd in one half of them; therefore the putting these Gentlemen under Hardships or popular Odiums, is a great discouragement at this time to the practice of Religion in the Island, and even tends to the abolishing the publick Exercise of it.

I come now to the last Head, and herein the Assembly were guilty of the greatest Violation upon the Liberties of the Subject, in ordering several Persons into Custody without any Cause (as far as appears by the Minutes) on pretence of breach of Privilege or Contempt of the House, thereby confining them for some time, obliging them to attend the House from distant parts of the Island, which was a great Charge to them, very detrimental to their private Affairs, and the publick Trade of the Island; compelling them to pay certain Sums for Fees, on being Discharged, at the pleasure of the House, there being no settled Fees; and this for very trivial or no Grounds; some words spoke or reported of some particular Man, which considering the extent of the Island, the small number of the Inhabitants, and the general Knowledge the Gentlemen of the Assembly may have of what is done or said (even in private Conversation) throughout the Island? 'Tis very extraordinary in them to assume such Authority on slight Occasions (beyond what the Commons of *Great Britain* ever did in good Times) and of publick Dis-service to the Island and all concern'd in it.

Their Resolutions against Colonel *Long, Loyd, Mr. Kent, Moore, Freeman, Ascough*, and others, are of the same extraordinary Nature, false in the Alegation contain'd and made without the Examination proper and usual before such Resolutions, and only to render these Gentlemen odious to the People. The Assembly in their Resolution say, *They had been acquainted and assured, these Gentlemen had solicited and subscribed a Paper directed to the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, against a Law of that Island, Entitled, An Act for preventing any one Person from holding two or more Offices of Profit in that Island; by which means, upon their application, the said Act was rejected by Her Majesty.*

All the Ground the Assembly had for this Resolution, was from Letters some of their Members had received

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from the Opponents of Mr. *Rigby*. Whereas these Gentlemen at the Desire of the Board of Trade, only attended there; and being ask'd whether they knew of any Inconveniencies in the Execution of the Offices of Secretary and Provost-Marshal of the Island, for some Years last past, declar'd they did not. And if Gentlemen for attending and giving their Opinions at the Board of Trade, when desired, shall be Treated in this manner, 'twill make them refrain concerning themselves for the future, on such Occasions as may be necessary for the Service of the Island.

Thus, in all their Proceedings have they manifested much private Prejudice and Resentment, and little Regard for the Publick; so that in their Session from the 26th of *November*, to the 20th of *February*, of the many things recommended to them by the Governor's Speech, they only pass'd the Bill for Subsisting the Soldiers to the first of *May*, and no longer, as aforesaid, and spent all the rest of their Time in the extraordinary and memorable Proceedings before taken notice of, and such like, without attempting to do any thing for the real Good of *Jamaica*, for which they had abundant Opportunity and Time, had they been so disposed; and to close the whole, assumed a Power of Adjourning themselves for a Month, contrary to the express Orders of the Governor, leaving all the publick Business undone, for which they were called together; on which the Governor, who could not allow of such Adjournment, has Dissolv'd them.

'Tis, I know, very evident, that their assuming such a Power is utterly Unpresidented, and Unwarrantable; I can't however but think it a fit Close of such an Assembly, who, I believe, will be memorable for so many Extraordinary Violent and Illegal Proceedings, and utter Neglect of every thing necessary to have been done by them for the Welfare of *Jamaica*.

You are pleas'd, Sir, to acquaint me that some Men here, would have us take the Leaders of the late Assembly as the only Patriots of *Jamaica*, which from their Actions I can no way comprehend, unless their Reflections on the Governor, and other Gentlemen who have endeavour'd to Support the Government, encourage the Settlement of the Island, and preserve the Trade and Liberties of its Inhabitants, can entitle them to that

Denomi-

Denomination. What they mean by their own Actions, their Calumny without Proof against others, and assuming a Merit without taking one step for the Good of *Jamaica*, I cannot imagine; unless they would themselves be the Rulers and Governors of the Country, which from their late procedure they will appear eminently qualified for.

But, Sir, to say no more of these Men, 'twere to be wish'd Gentlemen of the Island would reflect on the Nature and Constitution of the Government of *Jamaica*, derived wholly from the Favour of the Crown, and what ill Consequences may ensue destructive to its very Being, should future Assemblies take such extraordinary Measures as the last. I must desire you, Sir, to write to your Friends and Factors there, that the ill tendency of these Actions may be inculcated among the Inhabitants of *Jamaica*, in order to their Choice of such Persons for the next Assembly, as may pursue the true Interest of the Country with the utmost application, without any particular Party prejudices.

I am, &c.



A L E T

A LETTER to ----- Concerning *Jamaica*, &c.

Denston-Hall, 29 August, 1714.

S I R,

I N compliance with your Commands in *May* last, when Providing for the *Soldiers* in *Jamaica*, was before the House of Commons, I gave you the *State* of the *Island* in respect to them; wherein as you was well inform'd of the Consequences and Advantages of that Colony to *Great Britain*, I observ'd that those Advantages abstracting them from other Considerations, do in a great measure depend on the *Security* of that *Island*, the Merchants Trading thither, and the Factors going to, and residing in it, and that *this Security the Soldiers* have been to the *Island*, and are still necessary for the preservation of it, and in case they should be recalled, would (in that Particular only) very much endanger the *Trade and Safety* of *Jamaica*.

For the *Negroes*, on the *Island*, being upwards of Eighty Thousand, and the *White Men* not above Two Thousand, may at any time rise and destroy the *White People*; to prevent which, as well as secure themselves from an Enemy in time of War, or Pyrates in time of Peace, there are constant Guards kept in the Forts and several parts of the *Island*, which before the *Soldiers* came thither, were served by the Inhabitants, but was a very great Toil and Fatigue to them, occasioned the Death of many *White Men*, especially those newly come to the *Island*, and was consequently very prejudicial to the Trade and Business of it. Not to mention that such Guards were not, nor could be so well serv'd by the *Militia*, as by *Regular Forces*, especially in those Forts where there were any Number of Great Guns, &c.

But

But, notwithstanding, I must own that many of the Planters residing in *Jamaica* (not those who are here) are for having the *Soldiers* recalled; and in order thereto, the last *Assembly*, as I take notice in the Letter referred to, did refuse continuing to them any *Additional Substinance* to their *British Pay*, longer than the first of *May* last; and this done by them, without first giving the *Crown* thanks for them during the War, or making any Representation of their being an unnecessary Charge to the *Island*, and desiring they might be recalled.

I have never been for keeping *Soldiers* in any part of his Majesties Dominions, nor should be in *Jamaica*, did I not look upon it as the greatest Security, at present, against an Insurrection of the *Negroes*, or *Invasion of Pirates*, and can affirm the Quiet the *Island* has enjoy'd for some Years past, may justly be attributed to the *Soldiers* being there.

I am not, nor is any Person I have met with, either Planter of, or Trader to, *Jamaica*, for keeping *Soldiers* there, if some Means were entred upon and made effectual for Inviting and Encouraging of *White People* to come to the *Island*: But surely considering the present Circumstances of it, until this be done, and a much greater Number of *White Men* in it, no Man will think it reasonable to have the *Soldiers* recalled, who are but two Hundred.

The *Island* of *Jamaica* is surrounded with powerful Neighbours, and unless some immediate Care be taken to get *White People* to it, or it be secur'd by Men of War or Forces from *Great Britain*, before the first Rupture with *France*, cannot remain, thereafter, long in the Hands or Possession of the *English*; since in a few Hours Sail, the *French* from any part of *Hispaniola* may be upon it. But as I have told you in a Letter of the 20th *January*, 1712-13. 'Tis needless to say more as to the Danger *Jamaica* is in, than observe, that in the Year 1693. the Inhabitants of *Hispaniola* form'd an Expedition at their own Charge against it, and over-run and destroy'd the greatest part of it. Tho' it must be owned, that the Year before the *Island* had suffered a very great Loss by the Earthquake in its Inhabitants, and the Sicknes that followed: Yet notwithstanding, on Enquiry into the State and Condition of the *Island* at that time, 'twill be found to have had a much greater Number of *White Men*

or *Inhabitants upon it than since*; and it is certain, and much to be lamented, that *at this present* the Number of them is less than they have been, for *Forty Years past*.

The *Inhabitants of Jamaica* can't be at a loss for Information how the *French* are encreasing in People and New Settlements on *Hispaniola*, nor the Methods taken by the *French King* for Encouraging *White People* to go thither; and particularly what Care he takes that no one Person keeps any considerable quantity of Land more than he Plants or Manures. And that every *Owner of Negroes* keep a *White Man* to every five, or pay a certain Sum Weekly to Receivers for Deficiency. Which Money, as what is raised by Duties, is employed not to the King's immediate Use, but in the further settling of the Country, by Crediting Persons that are or will become *Settlers*, with *Negroes* and *Necessaries* for that Purpose, to be paid out of the Produce, one Third at a time, until the Sum so Credited, be re-pay'd.

These Methods taken by the *French King*, can't fail making *Hispaniola* a most glorious Settlement, and a dreadful Neighbour to *Jamaica*. Insomuch, as it is justly to be fear'd they will not only endanger by that and other their Settlements in their Islands in *America* our Sugar Trade, but be the means of dispossessing the *English* of so valuable an Island as *Jamaica* to *Great Britain*.

Nothing, humanly speaking, can considering our present Scituation of Affairs, secure and preserve it, but the immediate entring upon and doing the many things so much wanted, and so necessary to be done for the Security and Prosperity of that Colony; particularly making Laws that shall oblige all such Persons who have great Tracts of Land, to Settle or Sell them. That every Owner of *Negroes* shall keep a *White Man* to a certain Number of *Negroes* he is Master of, or pay a Sum Weekly for deficiency. That after a certain time; no *Negroes* shall be brought up to any Trade, and such as are already Tradesmen of any kind, shall not be suffer'd after a limited time to Work at any such Trade he has been brought up to under a Penalty. And that Fortresses wanted in any part of the Island be forthwith erected, and those already erected kept in good Repair; furnish'd with competent Garrisons; and well provided with Arms and all kind of Warlike Ammunition, and such

such Laws made, as may be for the Encouragement of *White People* to come and Settle in *Jamaica*.

This, Sir, is all I have to trouble you with at this time, and shall Conclude it, by telling you, that should the *English* be dispossessed of *Jamaica*, we shall not only lose an Island of very great Consequence to us in point of Trade, but must never afterwards expect to be formidable by our Naval Force in that part of the World, as we have been for many Years past by means of that Island; for the loss of *Jamaica* will probably be followed with the Ruine of our Interest in *America*.

I am, &c.

My Lord Hamilton's SPEECH, *December 2d,*
1714.

Gentlemen,

After former fruitless and unsuccessful Sessions of different Assemblies, we are now met again, and I hope it is with Temper and Resolutions to lay aside all Animosity and needless Contention, seriously and heartily to set about the Business for which you are called together.

In order to this, it is necessary to lay open the two Chief Points lately in Dispute; one a pretended Privilege, the other, the Providing for the Soldiers; upon both which Heads I hope to give you entire Satisfaction; since I'm perswaded you'll not assume more than is your Due, nor repine at what is both your Interest and Security.

As to the first then; It is with Authority I assert that the Assembly of this Island has no Power to Adjourn themselves without the Governour's leave, for a longer time than *De die in diem*, that pretended Power being altogether groundless, Assemblies being called, and Sitting as an Assembly by Virtue of the Royal Authority vested in the Governor by Commission under the Broad Seal of the Kingdom of *Great Britain*, they ought not to assume a Power never lodged, or intended to be lodged in them; and therefore I am directed to assert the Prerogative, and not to allow of any such Adjournment of your selves.

After

After what I have now told you, is there one under this Roof that can insift upon it, or expect that I will so far betray the Trust reposed in me, as to give it up.

We are all, blessed be God, entirely Secure both in our Religious and Civil Rights and Liberties, in the Happy and Peaceable Accession of His Majesty King *GEORGE* to the Throne; and I hope you will not fail to improve this first Opportunity of Demonstrating your selves with the utmost Zeal and Affection Dutiful and Loyal Subjects.

As to the other Matter, the Providing for the Soldiers, I am to acquaint you, That Her late Majesty of Blessed Memory, did order the Regiment here to be reduc'd into two Independent Companies, to consist of one Hundred Men each, Officer's Servants included. This was upon the most mature and solemn consideration, judged absolutely necessary for the Safety of the Island.

The Parliament has provided for these Men in the same manner with all the other Forces kept on Foot, the Number now Establish'd here is so small, that your Additional Subsistence (by so long experience found absolutely necessary) will be an inconsiderable Charge to the Country, and is assuredly expected of you.

Gentlemen of the Assembly,

I must not only Recommend this to you, but also to reimburse the Gentlemen of the Council, who on so pressing a Necessity, together with my self, have with no other view than the Publick Service, and the Preservation of the Peace and Quiet of the Island, Contributed to the Subsistence of these Men since *May* last, which for some time past, has been wholly on my Self.

The Supplying the necessary and pressing Occasions of the Government, so long postpon'd, will require your immediate Consideration. You can have no Satisfaction in hearing the Complaints of many who have just Demands on the Government, which remain unsatisfy'd.

What Good Laws may be prepar'd for the better Peopling the Island, and Quieting you in your Possessions, may go hand in hand with the Supply-Bills, so

that it shall not be my Fault, if this be not a short and happy Sessions.

Once more, Gentlemen, I do earnestly recommend to you a good Agreement and Dispatch, laying aside all former Animosities and Resentments. As for my own part, there's nothing that can reasonably be expected of me, that I'm not ready to go into for your Satisfaction. If any real Grievance or Pressure shall appear, I'll concur with you, to the utmost of my Power to Redress it: But if Passion, Prejudice, or Private Views, should create Imaginary ones, they are to be unregarded.

Let then no other Strife or Emulation appear in this Island; but who shall show most Zeal, Duty and Good Will to the present Happy Establishment, and the truest Love to his Country; not by opposing Government, but by Strengthening and Supporting it.

*** Note, The Assembly this Speech was made to, Sat but Three Days; the Reason of their being Prorogued, and afterwards Dissolv'd, appears by the Report of the Council, made Novemb. 12. 1714.*



VIEW

*A VIEW of the PROCEEDINGS
of the Assembly of Jamaica, and the Conduct
of the Governor and Council of that Island;
with a short State of its present Condition,
and Considerations thereon.*

UPON the Meeting of the Assembly on the 31st of October last, the Governor Communicated to them, pursuant to his Directions, his Majesty's Letter to his Lordship. Wherein his Majesty says,

Whereas the State and Condition of
Extract of the that our Island of Jamaica, having been
King's Letter. laid before Us by our Commissioners
for Trade and Plantations, We cannot
from the great Regard We have for the Safety and
Prosperity of an Island so Valuable by its own Produce,
and by its Scituation for Trade, but express our Con-
cern to find it's Inhabitants so Decreased, and Trade
of late Decayed; whilst its Vigilant Neighbours have
omitted no Endeavours to increase and strengthen them-
selves in both; This Concern is the greater when We
observe that there has not been that good Agreement
in Assemblies, so necessary at all time for Publick Hap-
piness, but more especially at such a Juncture. After-
wards his Majesty says :

We cannot but expect from that our said Island, a
ready and cheerful Compliance in making an Honoura-
ble Provision for our Revenues, in Discharging all Pub-
lick Debts, and giving a necessary Subsistence to the in-
dependant Companies there in our Pay, till by the
good Laws which shall be made for encouraging the
Increase of Inhabitants, there may be no further Oc-
casion for them. Further adds :

It is so much their Interest, and of so great Concern-
ment to them, to Enter seriously and heartily upon
Measures to encourage a Resort of People thither, and
there to fix them, that we cannot doubt of their being
Unanimous in it: To which, however, We are wil-
ling to exhort them further, by Assuring them that such
Proceedings for the Publick Good of our People, will

always be the most effectual Recommendation to the Continuance of our Royal Favour and Protection; and as We have been Pleased to renew your Commission and Instructions; We expect you will continue your best Endeavours for the Advancement of these good Ends, which we hope will restore that our said Island to a flourishing Condition. And so Concludes.

After the Letter Communicated to the Assembly, the Governor made a very handsom Speech upon the Subject Matter of the said Letter.

Wherein, after taking Notice of his Majesty's Favour to the Island, and the Effect he hopes it would have on them, proceeds more particularly to open the present Necessities of the Island, and the Condition of publick Affairs, in order to their better pursuing the Intents of the said Letter in these Words.

AFTER the Assurances You have had relating to the independent Companies, I cannot doubt but you will rest intirely satisfied, and chearfully Comply with what his Majesty expects of you, on that and other Heads recommended to you, I shall take Care that exact Accounts of the Debts contracted for that Service be laid before You.

After taking Notice of the weak and defenceless Condition of *Jamaica*. Proceeds thus,

As the Fortifications on *Port Royal* have lately had considerable Repairs, so I cannot but mention to You as of the greatest Importance to the Security of the whole Island and its Trade, that the *Projected Line* there should be gone on with; and likewise, that something be done at *Port Morant*: If you shall find that the usual Provision for Fortifications will not be sufficient for such New Works, so that your further Assistance will be necessary; I assure my Self you will not let it be wanting to your own Safety at so Critical a Juncture.

Exhorts them to make to make some good Laws for the incouraging and fixing a greater Resort of People, and recommends to them the doing the Business of the Country, and Concludes in these Words.

Let our Emulation be, who shall by his Actions show the most unfeigned Duty and Deference to the King the

the heartiest Inclinations to the present happy Establishment, and the sincerest Affection to his Country.

The 1st November being the 2^d Day of the Assembly's Sitting, the business was deferred for the sake of two extraordinary unpresidented Resolutions, to shew their good Dispositions to Unanimity, in the following Terms.

Resolved, That no Member of the Council hath right to Vote in the Election of any Member to serve in any Assembly.

Resolved, That it is an high Infringement of the Liberties and Priviledges of the People of this Island, for any such Member of the Council, or any *Custos Rotularum*, or Collector of the Parish, where such Collector or *Custos* shall reside, to concern themselves in, as to influence the Elections to serve in Assemblies.

The next Day the Address of the Assembly to His Majesty is prepared, and as a Demonstration of their Candour and good Will for the Publick Service, and the Disposition they met with, for Cultivating that Unanimity, so earnestly recommended by His Majesty. The first Paragraph runs thus,

WE do with all Humility and Cheerfulness Embrace the first Opportunity of Congratulating Your Majesty on Your Peaceable Accession to the Throne of your Royal Ancestors, which We had done sooner, at the last Meeting of this Body, had not we been prevented by a hasty Prorogation, attended with an unexpected Dissolution.

Afterwards among others are the following,

We return our most dutiful, humble, and hearty Thanks, in granting to us of this Island, the two necessary Laws, which from false Suggestions, and private Ends of some particular Persons, had heretofore met with so much Opposition.

We Assure your Majesty, that as We have not hitherto, so hope We never shall be wanting in our Parts, to make an honourable Provision for the Revenue, in discharging all its just Debts, and as we are truly sensible that your Majesty's Royal Intention, in keeping up the two independant Companies, is no other than the Security of this Your Island and People; so We shall make such Provision for them, as

‘ We hope shall tend to your Majesties Satisfaction, till
 ‘ We can effect a Law formerly, and now under Consi-
 ‘ deration, for the Incouraging the coming over, and set-
 ‘ tling a greater Number of your Majesties Subjects in
 ‘ this Island.

And give other Assurances according to the King's Letter.

This Address agreed to by the Assembly, is ordered by them, to be sent by the Speaker to *Great Britain*, to such Person or Persons as he shall judge most convenient.

The 7th of *November*, the Committee appointed to consider of his Excellencies Speech, made their Report, to which the House agreed to the Effect following,

That they were deeply affected by his Majesty's Letter mentioned therein, and full of Zeal to His Majesties Person and Government, and would readily Obey his immediate Commands; and Declare their Abhorrence of the *Pretender, &c.*

That when the Publick Accounts are laid before, and Inspected by the House, they will make Honourable Provision for the Revenue, and Discharge its just Debts, and provide for the two independant Companies; and if the usual Provision is not sufficient for the Fortifications, will give sufficient Supplies for effecting the same.

And having under their Consideration, (as former Assemblies have had) a Bill for bringing over and settling of white People in the Island, and a great Advance being made therein, doubt not but it will answer the good End proposed.

Ordered, That a Message be sent to his Excellency to Acquaint him with the said Resolutions.

On this the Governor, the next Day sent to the Assembly, taking notice of the manner in sending a Message, in Answer to his Speech, but passing it by, tells them, he has sent an Account of the Debt incurred for the Subsistence of Collonel *Handasyde's* Regiment, and the two Companies, with proper Vouchers, and desires their Answer thereupon.

On which the Assembly order'd a Committee, to Inspect all Publick Accounts, and by another Message, represent to his Excellency, they hoped their Yesterdays Resolutions would be Satisfactory, and that they could not more fully explain themselves, till they had the Report

port of the Committee on such Debts, and being determined to Obey his Majesties Letter; and as far as is consistent with the Trust reposed in them, his Excellencies Commands, desire to know wherein they have been deficient.

November the 8th, a Message was sent by his Excellency to the Assembly, wherein he says, " That former Assemblies not having thought it necessary to provide for the Soldiers longer than to the 1st of *May*, 1714. the Governor, by the Unanimous Advice and Assistance of the Council (the Assembly not then sitting) resolv'd to Maintain them till Provision could be made for them by an Assembly; obliged thereto by unavoidable and absolute Necessity, which he hopes will appear from the following Considerations. *First*, It is conceived every one will readily allow that he could neither break the Soldiers in pay of the late Queen, nor of his present Majesty, otherwise than by their particular Commands; without being highly Criminal. In the next place, it must likewise be allowed, from former Experience and Practice, that they could not possibly Subsist upon their proper Pay, without an additional Subsidance; Therefore to prevent their Disbanding, or falling into inevitable Irregularities for necessary Subsidance, and for the quiet of the Country; such a considerable Sum has been advanced, and by the Care that has been taken, much has been saved, as will appear by the Account laid before You; His Excellency hopes upon second View, the House will not think the Demand that has been made, any ways dangerous to the Liberties of the People of this Island; which shall be always with him equally Sacred with his Majesties just Prerogative, as Sovereign Lord of it; and that you will find that what is unusual in the whole Proceedings, has rose from extraordinary Emergencies; and that the Method fallen upon, was the most unexceptionable, and as the Assembly has already acquiesced in Opinion with his Majesty, that the said Companies is at present necessary for your Safety, they must have been no less so from their first Establishment; so soon after the Conclusion of a Peace, which we have all allowed to be unsafe, and that he had no other View, than the Publick Service and Quiet, and

and therefore doubts not being reimbursed, after an Impartial and Candid Consideration of that Affair.

The 9th the Committee made their Report on these Accounts, agreed to by the House, to the Effect following,

That having Examined the same, the Ballance of the Money disburst by his Excellency, amounted to 2706 Pounds, 6 Shillings, and 3 Pence.

Take Notice, the Money advanced, is of an Unpresidented Nature (being disburst without a Law, or the Publick Faith given for the reimbursing the same) and in Answer to the Governor's Reasons for the Necessity of it, say there was no such, there being time enough from the Dissolution of the Assembly that made Provision for the Regiment, till the 1st of May 1714. before the said Act expired, to have called an Assembly to have Consulted that Affair.

That the whole Regiment had been Disbanded, if the Governor had not used his Interest at home, for keeping up the said Independant Companies, whereby they would have been an Advantage, and not a Burthen to the Island.

That his Excellency having mentioned their Acquiescing with his Majesty, that the Companies are at present Necessary, they refer to their Address, and say, The House have resolved to Provide for them, only out of a particular Deference to his Majesties Recommendation.

And a Question being put, whether the said Debt could be Deemed a Publick Debt, and such a one as the Assembly ought to reimburse? *Carried in the Negative.*

After this so Decided.

A further Question being put, Whether the Money Disburst by his Excellency would be adjudged a Publick Debt, within the Construction of his Majesties Letter.

Carried in the Negative.

Resolved, That this House cannot Discharge the said Debt, without highly Infringing upon the Liberties of the Subjects of the Island, and betraying the Trust reposed in them.

Resolved, That this House will, according to the Assurances given to his Majesty by their Address, Provide an

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View

Additional Subsistence for the Officers and Soldiers in the two independant Companies, from the first Day of the Sessions of this present Assembly.

November the 11th, Resolved, That the said Officers and Soldiers be Subsisted for the Term of six Months, and for six Months longer; In Case two hundred Men do not Arrive in this Island, by the Incouragement given by a Bill, Intituled, An Act for the bringing over, and settling of white People in this Island, before the first six Months are expired.

These were the Proceedings of the Assembly, as far as we have an Account of them transmitted.

The Governor and Council after staying four Days, from the Opening of the Sessions, as usual, expecting the Assembly should send up their Address to his Majesty, to be joyned in by the Governor and Council, finding the Assembly had Pass'd their Address without taking any Notice of them; agreed on an Address to his Majesty, since transmitted, Presented to his Majesty, and Printed at length in the *Courant* of the 7th Instant, wherein they Express the greatest Regard to His Majesties Letter, and their Acknowledgment of his Favour to them, and their Sense of the declining Condition of the Island, desire an Addition of Ships of War for their Protection, and hope they may enjoy some Benefit by the Increase of Trade under his Majesties wise Administration; Acknowledge his Majesties great Favour in Continuing the two Independant Companies, and believe none can think that a Burthen, which his Majesty has judg'd Necessary for their Safety, Return their Thanks for his Majesties Passing the two Laws, so beneficial to the Island, and assure his Majesty, they will Contribute their utmost Endeavours to the Incouragement of Inhabitants amongst them, and to Unite in every other Matter, to render his Majesties Intentions towards the Island effectual, and restore it to a Flourishing Condition.

All which is so candidly Express'd, so suitable to his Majesties Letter, without the least Mark of Prejudice or Passion against any particular Men or Body; as evidently shew in them a sincere and hearty Desire of promoting the Interest of *Jamaica* in every Respect, and doing the Business of the Publick, abstracted from all private Views or Considerations whatsoever.

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The Proceedings of the Assembly, on Consideration will appear, byass'd by particular Piques and Prejudices, carried on with heat and Passion, without that Regard to the Publick Safety, or a due Consistency in their own Actions, requisite in such a Body of Men.

After the Governor's Speech, wherein the King's Letter is communicated and enforced, in the first place by an unpresidented and unwarrantable Resolution, they infringe on the Liberties of the People, of which they ought to be the Keepers, by not allowing Persons always concern'd in, and generally standing for Members of the Assembly, to Concern themselves in the Election, which was done only on this Account, that such Colonel or *Custos Rotulorum*, are Persons appointed by the Government.

Their next step in Addressing his Majesty of themselves, without desiring the Concurrence of the Governor or Council, is very extraordinary, and contrary to former Usage and Custom, and show their Disregard and Disrespect to the Governor, but they were certainly in the right; for having resolv'd on an Address, with several false and malicious Insinuations and Suggestions, to foment Division, or create Mistrust and Jealousies; the Governor and Council would have mended it for the better, which they did not intend; after the Address agreed, they Order'd the Speaker to send it home, without mentioning for what purpose; altho' constantly Addresses have always been transmitted by the Governor at the Request of the Assembly: But, however, there is no Occasion for them to take Notice of that, or that there is any such Power, as a Governor or Council upon the Island, and some way or other his Majesty must come to hear of it.

As to the Address it self, they begin by Suggesting, that had they not been prevented by a hasty Prorogation, and sudden Dissolution, they should have Address'd sooner, which is design'd as a Reflection on the Governor, how undeserv'd, will herein after appear, as well as the Necessity of such Prorogation and Dissolution.

They afterwards return'd his Majesty Thanks, for granting the two necessary Laws, which, say they, from false Suggestions, and the private Ends of some particular Persons had heretofore met with such Opposition.

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This acted by the same Spirit in which Mr. *Aylmer* wrote his Narrative to prejudice the Governor, and some very worthy Gentleman, both here, and in *Jamaica*, very undeservedly; cannot be better answer'd, than by the true State of that Narrative, (Page 10.)

Mr. *Aylmer* has owned (notwithstanding what he said of them in his Letters) that the Gentlemen of *Jamaica* here, did occasion a regard to be taken for the Passing of the Possession Act, and Mr. *Aylmer* himself, heard Mr. *Rigby* argue for, and press the Passing that Law, and the Bill of Fees, before the Lords Commissioners for Trade, and the Attorney General, and knows he was the Person drew the Reasons for the Attorney General's Satisfaction, in the reasonableness of the Possession Law; and if Sollicitations, either with the Secretary of State, the Board of Trade, or Attorney General, have been of any weight for Passing these Laws; 'tis notorious that the Island is more oblig'd on that Account to Mr. *Rigby*, the Relations and Friends of Mr. *Brodrick*, Mr. *Stuart*, and Mr. *Cockburn*; than to Mr. *Aylmer*, or any of the Relations or Friends of Mr. *Beckford*, Mr. *Chaplyn*, or Collonel *Blair*.

And that every one did what was in their Power to forward the Passing those Laws, particularly the present Governor, who is there likewise mention'd, (p. 12.)

In Justice to my Lord *Hamilton* (so much mis-represented by Mr. *Aylmer*) I must not here omit, that when the Possession Act was transmitted, His Lordship recommended it in a most particular manner to the Lords of Trade for the Royal Assent: And likewise did from time to time Write to the Earl of *Orkney*, in very strong Terms, to endeavour by his Interest the getting this Law passed; as also press'd it to his other Friends; and particularly desir'd Mr. *Thurston* to Solicite the same, even at the Expence of a Considerable Sum on his Lordship's Account.

The Assembly afterwards assure His Majesty of Discharging the Publick Debts, and Providing for the Soldiers.

Upon the Report of the Committee on His Excellency's Speech, they came to some Resolutions, which they let the Governor know, in a Message by two Members, in a very disrespectful manner, and contrary to the former Usage and Custom in like Cases; which has always been

been to Address the Governor on his Speech by the whole House. But in the whole Proceeding, they have manifested the greatest Disrespect to the Governor, which has even carried them to Absurdities in their Publick Actions, and a Neglect of the Common Safety. However, the Governor Acts with a due Consideration for the Welfare of the Island, and does not take Notice of their Disregard to his Character; but does every thing on his part for effecting the Publick Service; lays the Accounts of *Handasyde's* Regiment before the Assembly, and desires their Consideration on the same; and even shews the Reasonableness and Necessity of the Money so Advanced by the Governor and Council, for their Subsistence.

Notwithstanding all this, His Majesty's Letter, his Excellencie's Speech, and the Reasons of his Conduct, and the Sincerity of his Endeavours for the Publick Good, the Committee Report 2706*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.* Disburs'd, yet afterwards are of Opinion the same ought not to be Paid: and seem to answer the Governor's Reasons, by saying, There was not such an unavoidable Necessity for the Governor's advancing that Money; for that from the Dissolution of the Assembly, which provided for the Soldiers till the 1st of *May*, 1714. there was time enough before the Act expired, to call another; and mention it as their farther Opinion, That if his Excellency had not used his Interest, the whole Regiment had been Disbanded, and the House provide for the two Companies, now in particular difference to His Majesty's Recommendation.

By all which, they shew their own Opinion to be, that they are unnecessary. Thus we find they admit 2706*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.* to be Disburs'd, then refuse to allow it, afterwards declare it not within the Intent of His Majesty's Letter.

Thus as the two last Assemblies before them have done, it appears they met with Prejudice and Passion, and particular Designs, and have acted accordingly, without the least shadow of Reason or Pretence for it given by the Governor, against whom they are extreemly piqued, because he has taken more Care of them than they wou'd have had him, or are sensible they wanted; and tho' some Men of the Assembly have by little mean Artifices and Misrepresentations endeavour'd to asperse his Lord-

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ship, no Man has been so bold to Charge any thing directly against him ; tho' it be evident from the manner of their Procedure, they wanted no Inclination.

What themselves have done for the good of the Island, does not any otherwise appear, than by their Address and Resolutions ; and the first thing they have gone thro' have carried contrary to both. Their mentioning the Law for Encouraging White People to Settle there, being under Consideration when they Address'd His Majesty, was thus far so ; that they had Order'd such a Bill, to give Colour for such an Expression, tho' afterwards nothing seems to have been done in it, which ought to have been their first Application. The Resolution for the Subsistence of the Soldiers is very precarious, and only Conditional, and the manner of that Subsistence far different from what is necessary, and has been allow'd them before, being to be made by an Allowance of 7*l.* of Salt Beef, and equal quantity of Flower *per* Week to a Man ; whereas the former was 5*s.* *per* Week to a Man, which enabled every one to supply his own particular Necessities in the best manner, and this does not ; but they must provide for them in deference to the King's Recommendation, tho' they were resolved to do it in the most ineffectual and uneasie manner.

Having thus seen the Assembly's Proceedings, and examin'd the Reasonableness thereof, shall proceed to the Report of the Council, on the Affairs thus Order'd by the Assembly, in relation to the 2706*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.* Disburs'd for the Subsistence of the Soldiers, and refus'd by the Assembly to be a publick Debt, or referred to in the King's Letter ; which Report sets the whole matter in a clear light, and fully justifies my Lord's Conduct ; Answers the Assembly's pretended Reasons, and entirely refutes all their Cavils and Aspersions on the Governor.

The Report is made the 12th *Novemb.* 1715. Wherein, from a Committee of the whole Board, they Report to the Board,

That they have Consider'd the Matter referred to them, in relation to the Money advan'd by his Excellency and the Council, for Subsisting His Majesty's Soldiers here, from the 1st of *May*, 1714. to the 13th Instant ; and do find that by an Assembly conven'd at *Sr. Jago de la Vega*, *Novemb.* 26th, 1713. there was a Provision made for Colonel *Handasyde's* late Regiment,

to the 1st of *May*, 1714. And whereas that Assembly did assume to themselves a Power of Adjourning themselves, and actually did Adjourn themselves for one Month; not only without the Concurrence of the Governor, but also contrary to leave ask'd, and deny'd many weighty Affairs for which they were call'd together not being effected; and also contrary to former usage and practice in like Cases; his Excellency did, by the unanimous Advice of the Council, thereupon dissolve the said Assembly; having previous to that, receiv'd Directions from the Board of Trade, by a Letter Dated the 22d of *Novemb.* 1711. in the following words, *viz.*

' The Assembly's pretence of a Power to Adjourn themselves without your leave, for a longer time than *De die in diem*, is altogether groundless, the Assembly being call'd, and sitting as an Assembly, by Virtue of Her Majesty's Royal Authority, vested in your Lordship, by Commission under the broad Seal of this Kingdom, they ought not to assume a Power never lodg'd, or intended to be lodg'd in them; and therefore we doubt not but your Lordship will upon any future Occasion of that Nature, assert Her Majesty's Prerogative, and not allow of their Adjourning themselves as aforesaid. Which was also confirm'd to his Excellency by a subsequent Letter, bearing Date the 24th of *June*, 1714. in Answer to his Lordship's Letter, giving an Account of the Dissolution above-mention'd, and the Occasion thereof, in these words, *viz.* ' The Assembly's Adjourning themselves without your leave, is another Instance of their undutifulness and disrespect to Her Majesty; all which will be taken Notice of, and proper Remedies applied, if your next Letters do not inform us of their having come to a better Temper. Which Letter his Lordship receiv'd the 1st of *October* following; and by the unanimous Advice of the Council, Writs issued, bearing Date the 21st of the same Month; to Convene an Assembly, which met accordingly, on the 2d of *December* following; who, having during their Sessions of three Days, run into such violent and unpresided Measures, particularly in refusing to Confer with the Council (and thereby breaking the good Correspondence that ought to be kept up between them) when thereunto invited, by repeated Messages upon the Subject Matter of a joynt Address to His present Majesty, from the

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the Governor, Council, and Assembly; upon which, his Excellency did Prorogue them to the 18th Day of *January* following; and by the Advice of the Council, his Excellency dissolv'd them the 14th of the same Month, upon Consideration of the Act of Settlement; and not having any new Power or Order from His Majesty, he could not call a New Assembly; and his Conduct therein having been approv'd of by the Board of Trade, by their Letter of the 25th day of *April*, 1715. in the following words, *viz.* 'We Concur with what the late Board wrote your Lordship the 21st of *June*, 1714. relating to the Speaker's refusing your Lordship the Minutes, To the Assemblies Adjourning themselves without your Lordship's Leave, and refusing to let the Council mend Money Bills, the good Dispositions which are shewn here for the Support of *Jamaica*, make us hope the Assembly will give you no such grounds of Complaint for the future, or treat your Character with such disrespect, as to put you under the Necessity of Proroguing them, as the last did in refusing to let your Lordship join with them in their Address. By all which particulars it manifestly appears to this Committee, that there could be no Provision made by an Assembly of this Island for the Soldiers, from the 1st of *May*, 1714. till this present Assembly, otherways than has been done, in the manner represented by his Excellencies Message of the 8th Instant to the Assembly.

From all which foregoing Facts it plainly appears to the Committee, that there was an unavoidable and absolute Necessity of advancing Money to provide for the Soldiers in the same manner that his Excellency and the Council did take; they not being capable of Subsisting without helps of that Nature, and be kept to their Duty as was intended for the Service and Quiet of this Island.

The Committee cannot Conceive the Soldiers being all Disbanded could have been of equal Service to this Island, as the forming them into two independant Companies; for upon the Reducement of Collonel *Handasyde's* Regiment, much the greater part of the Men that were then disbanded, left the Island; and considering the weak Condition the Island is in, and being liable to Insurrections of *Negroes*, as well as Invasions in time of War, they cannot conceive that a Burthen, which is of so great Use on those Occasions, and must allow them

to be for the Service of the whole Island, till we have a greater Resort of People settled amongst us: We are Concern'd to find the Assembly should reckon that a Burthen, which his Majesty has thought necessary for the Safety of this his Island.

It is the Opinion of this Committee, upon Perusal of the Representation laid before his Majesty, concerning the State and Condition of this Island, Dated the 25th of April, 1715. To which his Majesty has reference, at the beginning of his Letter to his Excellency; and wherein he says, ' He expects from this Island a ready and cheerful Compliance, in making an Honourable Provision for his Revenue, in Discharging all Publick Debts, and giving a necessary Subsistence to the two independent Companies in his Majesties Pay here; that his Majesty had then in View the Money advanced by his Excellency and the Council, for Supporting the Soldiers here; as one of the Publick Debts, his Majesties Letter alludes to the Debt then Contracted for that Service, being particularly mentioned in the said Representation.

The Committee is further of Opinion, that the said Debt is just, and ought to be paid, and they cannot Conceive that the Assembly's paying the same, can be any ways infringing upon the Liberties of the Subjects of this Island, or betraying the Trust reposed in them; and seeing that the Assembly have Voted they will not pay the said Debt; The Committee is of humble Opinion, that his Lordship be pleased to represent the whole Matter home, in Order to its being laid before his Majesty, as well to know his further Pleasure and Direction thereupon, as to have his Direction in like Cases for the future.

This 'tis hoped, will give every one a clear View of the Conduct of the Assembly, the Governor and Council, and enable every Man to make a Judgment of the Nature and Tendency of the Publick Transactions in Jamaica on all sides, 'tis believed the Governor's Conduct is sufficiently justified there, and approved of here: 'tis well if the Assembly can theirs.

I believe there is no Reason to take Notice of all the idle Stories insinuated here by particular Men, to private Persons, against the Governor; as keeping the Publick Monies in his Hands, neglecting the Fortifications, and Reporting He will pass no Laws but what

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are agreeable to himself; since those Stories are without Foundation, and the Men who most effect them, are sensible of the contrary; But had the Assembly any Complaint to make against his Lordship, they would certainly have done so; and his Excellency by his Message to the Assembly the 8th of November, informed them of his Majesties Pleasure in that behalf, in the following Words.

Mr. Speaker,

' I am Comanded by his Excellency, to acquaint the House, that he has Communicated to the Council the following Article of his Instructions from his Majesty, he is not conscious of having given any Occasion of Complaint. But you will observe, that it is by his Majesties Command, that he is obliged likewise to Communicate the same to You.

' You are to acquaint our Council and Assembly, that we think fit when any Complaint shall be intended against you, Notice shall be immediately given you thereof, by the Complainants, with the Charge against You in Writing, to the end You may make timely preparations for your Defence.

The Assembly know they have no ground of Complaint, and only endeavour to render his Lordship uneasy in his Government; and if when a Governor abroad, in so distant a part of his Majesties Dominions, by acting up to the Instructions of his Majesty, and behaving himself in so unexceptionable a manner, that Persons disposed to do him any Prejudice, cannot lay any thing to his Charge, shall suffer in his Reputation at home, from trivial Stories, without any known Abettor, and his Person and Character be used with Disrespect in that Country. Those Posts, will hereafter be very troublesom to the Persons Employed, of very little Service to the King or Country, when from the Prejudicing or Designing Views of particular Partizans, Governors must be Changed and Altered, because they are not pleased, without Reasonable Objections made and proved against them: Which will wholly Destroy the Authority of Government it self in those Parts, and be a constant Clamour, and endless Trouble to that part of the Ministry to whom the Care of the Plantations belong. Upon the whole, 'tis submitted whether 'tis not absolutely necessary, that some certain Methods be immediately entred upon for the Preservation and Incouragement of Ja-

maica at this Juncture. As well by Securing the Island by Ships of War, against any suddain Surprise, as effectually contributing what shall be farther Necessary for their Quiet within themselves, and the making those good Laws so much wanted, for the better Peopleing the Island, constantly recommended by my Lord *Hamilton*, to several Assemblies, without Effect on their parts; and which His Majesty in His Letter says is so much their Interest, and of so great Concernment to them to enter seriously and heartily upon, as one of the most effectual Recommendations to the Continuance of His Royal Favour and Protection. *Feb. 10th, 1715-16.*

After the sending the foregoing Papers, I determin'd to delay the Printing them, 'till a full Account of the present Assemblies Proceedings should arrive; but some late Occurrences have made it necessary to publish them at this time.

Some Gentlemen have declared themselves desirous at all times, that all former Disputes might be Buried, and Persons concern'd in the preservation of *Jamaica*, unite their Endeavours for the Quiet and Safety of the Island, which I heartily wish; tho' I fear that will not happen so soon as might be wish'd for, however willing some may be, there are others whom it may be difficult to bring to such a Temper, if we form any Judgment of them from the Minutes of the Assembly, transmitted by the last Letters, and the *Memorial* given in to the Board of Trade some Days ago; which under the Specious Pretence of justifying the Assembly from a Representation supposed to be made against their Proceedings by my Lord *Hamilton*, endeavours to set my Lord's Administration in the most odious Light, and even compares it to the most Tyrannical Government ever exercised over the Inhabitants of *Jamaica*.

I only desire every Man who has or may read this *Memorial*, would calmly peruse the foregoing Papers, consider the Matter in Dispute, Seriously and Impartially, and lay aside all Prejudices as to Persons, only regarding the Subject Matter it self; then I am perswaded the many Complaints made privately in Conversation, as well as those exhibited, upon a strict Examination will appear to have little or no Foundation; and that my Lord *Hamilton* has in all respects pursued his Instructions, and will be found less culpable for any Act of male Administration, than any Governor *Jamaica* ever had,

or

or any Governor past, or present, of any of our Colonies and Plantations in *America*.

I shall here give some Extracts of Letters from *Jamaica*, which evidently show what Opinion the more Intelligent there have of the Assembly's Proceedings.

Kingston, Novemb. 14th, 1715.

Our Assembly Met the 31st of last Month, and have made choice of Colonel *Blair* for their Speaker. My Lord made them a very handsom Speech, and in it recommends Things really wanted to be done by them, they have return'd no Answer for it; but have Address'd the King, without taking any notice of the Governor or Council, nor desiring him to transmit it as usually; but have made a Resolution, that the Speaker send it to such Persons as he thinks fit in *England*, without adding, if in order to be presented to the KING, or not.

If what we hear from *Spanish-Town* be true, they are resolv'd not to reimburse the Governor the Money he has advanc'd; for the better Subsisting of the Soldiers here, and are doing many other things against him, which you will hear no doubt from his Friends, or those who have the Minutes sent to them. I have seen only the five first Days Proceedings; but as I hear, my Lord stops this Ship, I suppose to send home the Minutes to this time.

This Assembly have it in their Power to serve the Country, if they are wise enough to do it, but I am afraid by this beginning, they will Sacrifice all Opportunities of that kind, to Personal Resentment; in which I think they expose themselves, and do all they can to justify my Lord's Measures; I wish for the sake of *Jamaica*, they had better consulted their own Reputations.

Kingston, Decemb. 4. 1715.

The Grand Court is Sitting, as also the Assembly (who as former Assemblies have done in Court time) sit in the Great Church; by the Minutes which are sent by this Conveyance, you'll see how they continue to proceed: They have shewn their Resentment against this Town for the Inhabitants being Courtiers, as they are termed by a Clause in a Bill they have passed, and sent to the Council; which yesterday the Merchants and Inhabitants carried a Petition to the

the Council in relation to, who have appointed the 7th for Hearing them upon it, and it's generally believ'd here, they will not pass the Bill with this Clause.

It appears but too plain, that this Assembly seem'd resolv'd to do nothing, unless affront my Lord, and destroy Trade in General, having no regard to the King's Letter, to the Governor, or his Speech to them, but on the contrary, seem to trifle in every particular.

They have Voted 40 s. a Head on all Negroes Exported, and an Additional Duty on all Merchandizes Imported, and Exported, and have accordingly Ordered in a Bill. I will not tell you how much this will effect at first the *South-Sea-Company*, and all Traders to the *Spanish Coast*, and in the end, the Island it self. But this the Gentlemen of the Assembly do not consider, nor would they take Notice of the Representation, &c.

Kingston Decemb. 26th, 1715.

The publick Affairs are so intricate, that I know not what to think of them; my Lord is far from being us'd with that good Manners and Respect his Person and Character demands; but he has so much Temper and good Sense, that I am perswaded he will overcome all; and I can't say enough in praise of Mr. Brodrick, who is both Honest to the Country, as well as Sincere to the Governor in all his Advice; by the Proceedings of the Assembly, you may easily judge what a Confusion they are in.

There is a Report given in from the Committee appointed to Examine into the State of the Island; in which they begin from my Lord *Hamilton's* Landing, to this time; and accuse Mr. *Rigby*, Mr. *Stewart* and Mr. *Brodrick*, as Evil Councillors, but in a manner the most extraordinary. The 23d they sent a Message to my Lord, to ask Leave to take Mr. *Brodrick* into Custody, and design to have a fling at the other two. The Governor and Council's Answer to the Assembly, I send enclos'd; such mad doings was never before seen in this Island.

The

The GOVERNOR and Council's Message.

December 24th, 1715.

Mr. Speaker,

" I Am Commanded by His Excellency and the Council, to Acquaint the House, in Answer to this Message, of yesterday, relating to *William Brodrick* Esq; His Majesty's Attorney General, that the House have been rightly Informed that the said *William Brodrick* is called by His Majesty's Writ to attend his Excellency, and the Council, to give his Advice as Occasion may require, for His Majesty's Service.

" That his Excellency and the Council are sorry to find by the Message of the House, that the said Mr. *Brodrick* is under their Displeasure, upon Complaint said to have been made against him by a former Assembly, for which the then Speaker's Warrant was out against him. The House not having specified of what nature those Complaints were, nor to whom made, his Excellency and the Board can form no Judgment of his Offence: But as His Majesty has been since pleased to appoint him his Attorney General, under the Broad Seal of *Great Britain*, in recompence, as they suppose, of the Zeal he has always shewn himself to the Protestant Succession, and in regard to the more Eminent Services of his Family, by the Noble stand they made in behalf of our Religion and Liberty lately in danger from and at present attack'd by a Popish Pretender. They heartily wish the House had passed over Complaints made by former Assemblies, which in the ordinary Proceedings are dropt of Course by Dissolutions, especially when His Majesty Himself had been graciously pleas'd to have no Retrospection.

" But his Excellency and the Council at the same time assure the House, that they do not express this Indulgence to Mr. *Brodrick*, with any design to Screen him from Justice.

" They have Unanimously Resolved, that neither the Attorney General, or any other Officer of His Majesty attending their Board, nor even any Member of it, shall ever be Privileged or Protected from Justice or Suit at Law. But they have likewise Resolv'd, that

“ every Officer of His Majesty attending the Board,
 “ has a Just and Necessary Right as well as the Mem-
 “ bers themselves, to be Privileged in their Persons,
 “ until such Articles or Informations be Exhibited a-
 “ gainst them ; by which the Board may Judge whe-
 “ ther they ought to be deliver’d up to Justice, or not,
 “ and in what manner.

“ His Excellency and the Board cannot doubt but the
 “ House, whose Peculiar Province it ought to be, to
 “ guard the Liberties of the Subject, will approve these
 “ Resolutions as agreeable to Justice.

“ That the Imprisoning any Subject before Complaints
 “ exhibited against him, which merit Imprisonment,
 “ has been always esteem’d the greatest violation of
 “ *Magna Charta*, and bordering too near upon the Ju-
 “ risdiction of a Star-Chamber, from which the Subject
 “ is happily deliver’d ; and his Excellency and the
 “ Council cannot therefore believe any such proceedings
 “ will ever meet with the least Countenance from the
 “ People’s Representatives.

“ That the Board cannot omit upon this Occasion, in
 “ Justice to two of their own Members taking notice
 “ of a Report entred upon the Minutes of the House,
 “ whereby they are accused as Evil Advisers to the Go-
 “ vernment. They observe the Matter of that Report,
 “ tho’ it regards the State of the Island, is said to have
 “ been Consider’d in a Private Committee, and no
 “ Person is mentioned who makes the Report, nor any
 “ Notice taken of it by the House ; and the Report it
 “ self is Couch’d in such general terms, as not to be
 “ capable of an Answer. His Excellency and the Coun-
 “ cil therefore unanimously desire, that if the House
 “ believe they have a sufficient Foundation to Charge
 “ any Member of the Board with any Misdemeanor,
 “ they will do it in the usual manner prescribed by
 “ Law, and the Board will be ready to receive any In-
 “ formation they shall Exhibit. In the mean time, as
 “ His Majesty has been pleas’d to appoint every Mem-
 “ ber of the Board, however unworthy such Honour to
 “ be of His Council in this Island, the Board have
 “ reason to expect, that in regard to that distinction
 “ the House will Treat their Names and Characters
 “ with Common Decency.

The Clause in the Bill for better Peopleing the Island against the Inhabitants of Kingston particularly, is as follows.

‘ Whereas in the Town of *Kingston*, a number of Porters, Wharfingers, and Labourers, would find immediate Employment; Be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That from and after the first Day of *December*, which will be in the Year of our Lord, 1716. no *Negro*, *Mulletto*, or any other Person, not being a White Person, and a Christian, shall be suffered to attend or work upon any Wharf, or be Employed in the said Town, to do the Business of a Wharfinger, or Labourer, on any Wharf, in the Landing or Weighing off of Goods; nor from and after the said time, shall any *Negro* be permitted to be a Porter or Labourer, or to take or carry from Place to Place, or Roll, or Truck, or help to Land or Ship them off, or any ways be aiding or assisting in the Carrying or Selling of Goods in or about the said Town, under the Penalty of being Forfeited, and adjudged to the Informer or Person that shall Inform against or Discover to any Magistrate, such *Negro* being Employed in the said Town, as a Porter or Labourer as aforesaid.

This Clause manifestly proceeds from the greatest Partiality, and must either be designed by the Proposers, to clog the Bill, or to Ruine *Kingston*. Had the Clause been extended to all the Towns and Barquadeers throughout the Island, with respect to the *Negroes*, it might have been of Service; but limiting it to *Kingston*, and excluding the *Jews*, who are a great part of the People, make it pernicious to the Trade of the Island; and I can never think the Leaders in the Assemblies, who have ever been for Loading Trade with great Duties, and high Impositions, and have lately promoted the laying 40 s. a Head on *Negroes* Exported, do either understand the Interest of *Jamaica*, or are Encouragers of the Trade and better Settlement of the Island.

I wish some Gentlemen would consider that People are the Riches of all Kingdoms, more especially Trading Ones, and an Advantage and Security to distant Colonies. That greater Numbers of White People in *Jamaica*, would occasion not only a greater Consumption of all kind of Manufactures, Provisions, &c. from *Great Britain*, *Ireland*, and our Northern Colonies, but advance

vance the settled Revenue, and Additional Duties might be laid on Merchandize Imported, and Exported, as more Settlements would lessen the Tax on the present Plantations, and there would be a greater demand of *Negroes* from *Africa*, both for the Island, and our foreign Neighbours; and that consequently much greater quantity of Shipping will come to *Jamaica*, and the Product of the Island be always in demand, and Sell at a higher Price.

I shall Conclude, with recommending to them, what I found in a Speech to the Assembly of *Barbadoes*, the 24th of *June*, 1714.

‘ Our Neighbour Colonies so long kept by Foreign Fears from Improving, are now Encouraging Trade, Encreasing their People, Enlarging their Plantations, and Cultivating their Lands, &c.

‘ One only Supply we have, Trade, &c. our Scituation points it out to us, let us lay hold of it, let us make a right use of it, &c.

‘ Let the People be Encouraged to return, who by the Fatigues of War have been driven from us; let us not only ease them of those Burthens, but fix them here by larger Immunities, which will Invite others also to Settle here; let us by all ways of Justice and of Favour so Protect and Smile upon the middle sort of our Inhabitants, who are the Bulk and Defence of our Island, as may prevail with them, to look up this as the Home and Resting place of them and their Posterity.

‘ Let the Publick Credit be maintain’d, and Private Credit established, not only by an equal but a speedy Distribution of Justice.

‘ Let the Duties upon Importations be so Regulated, and Exportations so Countenanced, as may tempt all Vessels to try our Market; in which such Regards may be had to our own Inhabitants, as may make a hopeful Nursery of Seamen.

‘ This way we shall have Supplies for our Expence and Improvement, at an easie Rate, and our Goods will always be in demand.

‘ Believe me, Gentlemen, let Trade that tender Plant be kindly Nursed, and it will yet retrieve all.

March 8th, 1715-16.

FINIS.

A
THE
REPRESENTATION
AND
MEMORIAL
OF THE
COUNCIL
OF THE
Island of *Jamaica*,

To the Right Honourable
The Lords Commissioners for
Trade and Plantations.

Together with
The Addresses of the Governour and
Council, and Town of *Kingston*; and
Association of the Principal Inhabitants.

With a *PREFACE*, by Mr. WOOD.

LONDON: Printed by W. WILKINS at
the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*. 1716.

REPRESENTATION

AND

MEMORIAL

TO THE

HOUSE OF COMMONS

IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED

THE PETITION OF

THE LONDON AND WESTMINSTER

UNIVERSITY

SHUNTH

THE PETITION OF

THE LONDON AND WESTMINSTER

UNIVERSITY

WILLIAM BAKER

PRINTED BY W. BAKER

AT THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

IN THE CITY OF LONDON

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THE PREFACE.



Understanding that most of the Gentlemen of Jamaica in England, are desirous to read the Publick Papers from that Island, as well as for their own Satisfaction; as with a View, those Papers being Printed and sent to Jamaica may open the Eyes of its Inhabitants; so miserably abused and deluded, they have been therefore Published in this manner.

It is most notorious, that the Misrepresentations of Persons in, and the Transactions of the Affairs of that Country, have been very great and uncommon, and the Administration of the Government, during my Lord Hamilton's Time, set in the most odious Light; but with what Truth and Justice, will appear upon a careful Perusal and Consideration of the several Papers transmitted for some Time past, from Jamaica.

By them we can only govern our selves in determining, whether the actings of the Governour and Council, (who have so unanimously agreed) or that of the Assembly have been most for the Interest of that Country.

By them it will be found,

That the Assembly in their Proceedings, have not only disregarded the King's Letter and Instructions, the Lords of Trade Representation to his Majesty, and other Papers laid before them by the Governour, but have in some measure endeavoured to assume

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the

ii The P R E F A C E.

the Executive Power of the Government into their own Hands.

That the Assembly not only refused to provide an Additional Subſiſtance to the two Independent Companies in his Maſteſty's Pay, but to Supply the Revenue with Money for the Support and Honour of the Government in any other manner, than if the Council had agreed to: they muſt have ſhown the greateſt Contempt to his Maſteſty's Letter and Inſtructions, and rendred the Governour and themſelves entirely uſeleſs and inſignificant.

That the Assembly, inſtead of making Laws for the better Encouragement of White People to come and reſide in the Iſland, framed Temporary Ones; which were a Suspension of Perpetual Ones (when duly executed) of much greater Encouragement.

That the Assembly, becauſe *Kingſton*, the chief Place of Trade, choſe Members well affected to the Government, exceſſively Taxed that Town, whoſe Inhabitants, to the Number of 150, Perition'd the Council againſt ſuch Taxation, and were relieved by them.

That the Assembly had laid before them by the Council, an Eſtimate, that his Maſteſty's Revenue was really in Debt 8000 *l.* beſides a Debt of 3000 *l.* for ſubſiſting the Soldiers; and alſo a Computation, that the Publick Money had been transfer'd from one Commiſſioner's Hand to another, till ſome had been charged with 9, ſome 13, ſome 15, and ſome 17 *per Cent.* Commiſſion; and likewise ſhewed them, that the Publick had been charged with above 5000 *l.* for Extraordinary Commiſſion in a very few Years, more than would have been, in caſe the Money had been paid into the Hands of the Receiver-General, according to his Maſteſty's Directions, yet only gave 2100 *l.* into the Treafury, and appointed Commiſſioners to collect and pay the Publick Money intended to be raiſed.

That the Assembly tax'd Officers never before tax'd, doubled the Tax of ſome, and eaſed others according to their private Inclination to the Perſons, and without any Examination into, or regard to the Value of the Office.

That

The P R E F A C E.

iii

That nothing was asked, or endeavour'd by Lord *Archibald Hamilton*, but for the Security and Welfare of the Island, in conformity to his Majesty's Royal Letter and Instructions, nor no Supplies offer'd by the Assembly, or any Bills prepared by them, but in direct Opposition to those Instructions, and clogg'd in such a manner, that it was impossible to accept them, without giving up that Authority which his Majesty had been graciously pleased to entrust with his Governour and Council.

That the Assembly refused to agree to two Amendments made by the Council to a Bill, entitled, *An Act to secure the Freedom of Elections, and directing the Proceedings in Choice of Members to serve in Assembly*: One was to oblige every Voter, if required, to take the Oaths to the Government; and the other, to oblige them to swear their Freeholds was of the Value of 30 *l.* currant Money of *Jamaica*.

That the Assembly pass'd a Bill which, without the Amendments of the Council, the most rigorous against Protestant Dissenters of all sorts, that had ever been pass'd in any of his Majesty's Dominions; and which plainly discovered, the same Principles had lately been made use of by the Enemies of the Constitution, to weaken us.

That because the Assembly could not have the Solliciting Bill their own way, they set on foot Subscriptions in their own House; and by a sort of Ordinance (which was read Twice in their House, and had probably been read a Third time, if they had not been alarmed by some Observations made upon their Proceedings) recommended the same to the Country, and thereby raised a much more considerable Sum of Money than by the Solliciting Bill.

That the Design of these Subscriptions (no just Grievance appearing) is to delude ignorant People out of their Money to carry on private Ends, and to reward their Sollicitors at Home against their Governours; the Money so raised having been remitted to Mr. *Francis March* and other Persons, in *England*.

That 'tis desired the Sollicitors may be called upon to shew the Grounds they have for Complaint; and

iv The P R E F A C E.

if they have none, that Methods may be taken that the Collectors Account, one way or other, for the Money they have severally received, that so unwarrantable a Practice be prevented for the future ; without which it will be impracticable for his Majesty's Service to be carry'd on in those Parts.

That there is a Necessity of speedy Measures, for the better Peopling the Island, and for supporting the Government and Authority of the Crown, encroached upon by a part of the Legislature exceeding their due and reasonable Bounds ; strengthening themselves with the Pretences of publick Good and their own Privileges, as the Representative of the People, a few designing and malicious Men imposing upon, and deluding the People so far insatuated, as to seem insensible of their present Danger, and regardless of their future Safety and true Interest.

That these Disorders call for his Majesty's own Interposition, for the Preservation of the Island and the Quiet of his Majesty's well disposed Subjects therein.

These Passages demonstrate, that the Disputes in Jamaica, (howsoever some have endeavoured its being believed) have not been concerning Persons, but Things, upon Points whereon depend the Security and Preservation, the Welfare and Prosperity of that Island.

And until the Inhabitants look into Publick Transactions themselves, how is it ever possible but that a few designing Men to carry on private Ends and Prejudices, must at their Pleasure, bring the Island into the utmost Confusion and Disorder ; so they can, by Art and Industry, Lies and Stories, get Credit with the Populace.

The Council in their Representation, thus express themselves.

We have not thought it consistent with our Duty to his Majesty, or the Good of our Country, to joyn in peevish Complaints, stir'd up by the restless Passions and Prejudices of two or three Persons against a Governour, whose Lenity in his Government has too much encourag'd them, but against whom not the least Act of Injustice or Oppression, that we know of, can be made appear : And we submit it
to

The P R E F A C E.

V

to your Lordships, whether the yielding to the unreasonable Desires of such Men, accompany'd with such disrespectful Proceedings to his Majesty, be likely to be attended with any good Effect to the Authority of his Majesty, or the Good of this Island. We confess, my Lords, in our humble Opinion, we think it will not; because instead of any Oppression from our Governour, the Eldest amongst us does not remember greater Hardships offer'd, nor greater Oppressions done in this Island, than have been by this Assembly to their Fellow-Subjects; the Particulars whereof your Lordships will find upon their own Journals, and by them will judge, if the Council have not made a Stand for the Liberties of the Subject, as well as for the just Authority of the Crown.

But however unfortunate Lord Hamilton and half the Council may have been, to fall under his Majesty's Displeasure (before these Papers arrived, or were known to the Government) to make way for Persons there, who have opposed his Majesty's gracious Letter and Instructions, it may be said for their Credit and Honour, That they are justify'd in all their Disputes with the Assembly by the Secretary of State, and the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations.

Therefore notwithstanding it has been so industriously given out here (as no doubt we shall hear it is in Jamaica) that Lord Hamilton was removed for Acts of Mal-Administration, not on Account of Page's Complaint in behalf of the Spaniards, it may be safely advanced, that the same is entirely false and groundless; and that his Lordship's Conduct has been, in every Particular, approved. But in regard to Page's Accusation, to which it may be said for Lord Hamilton.

That whatever may have been the Consequence of his passively permitting so many Vessels to go and Fish on the Wrecks, (which, by the way, was done by other Governours in America, as well English as French, Dutch, &c. and he had not Power to prevent) I am perswaded he had no unjust Design in it, as appears by all his Conduct in that Affair; and I cannot well see, considering there was no Man of War at Jamaica, and considering the

the State of the Island and the Nature of those sort of Sailors, what more could have been done than was done by his Lordship and the Council, for the Satisfaction of the Spaniards.

*But what was done in order thereto in February, (whilst Page was Clerk of the Council, or before he was discharged for Incapacity) was to be stifled by him, tho he came from Jamaica in March, since it must have prevented that Business being done; for which such considerable Collections had been made, and with which he came encharged privately from the Island; and for effecting which he made his loose, artful, hearsay Affidavit, which upon Examination, will be found not to have stated the bare Truth, but the fallacious Insinuations of ill designing Men, whereby to make what they desire appear so; and this is the more plain, as he concludes it, by setting forth, That the Cause of his Knowledge is, his being Secretary of the Island and Clerk of the Council; and yet omitted giving in to the Secretary of State, the Copy of the * Commissions and Instructions of the Lord Hamilton, or the Determinations of the Council on the Complaint of the Spaniards. Altho this was what he might have done, as well as given L'Vallee's Memorials, the List of Vessels commissioned, and Securities, had he not sworn for one Point, and with one View; which made him aggravate and insinuate whatsoever might heighten an Accusation of this Nature, and suppress what tended to clear or justify.*

Some Gentlemen please themselves in thinking, that now Lord Hamilton is removed, the Men who gave him such Opposition in his Government, will do what they before refused, and act for the Good of the Island and his Majesty's Service.

The refusal of the several Things recommended by Lord Hamilton, was not so much disrespect to his Lordship, as to his Majesty, and his Authority invested in him: And as he

* These Papers were laid before the Council by Lord Hamilton, upon their taking into Consideration, in what manner to give the Spaniards Satisfaction: And by Page's being Clerk of the Council, he got Copies of them, which otherwise had not been in his Power.

The PREFACE. vii

asked nothing for himself, but for the Good of the Island and his Majesty's Service, in pursuance of his Orders and Instructions; and as every Thing recommended by him, either as from himself, or his Majesty and the Lords of Trade, was refused by them, they can't readily be esteem'd either Friends to, or Promoters of the true Interest of their Country.

But if these very Men shall come into the Things they refused before, or recede from Points they have declared Essential to the Liberties of the People and the Constitution of the Assembly, no Man will more rejoice than my self, nor sooner forget their former Conduct; for I am not, and hope never shall be, an Enemy to any Man's Person, or for his private Actions; but for his Actions or Conduct in respect to the Publick.

I wish all former Disputes might be buried, and Persons concerned in the Preservation of Jamaica, would unite their Endeavours for the Quiet and Safety of the Island; and that if these Men act, as some think they will, they may never be told, That had they acted otherwise for many Years past, they had saved themselves and others, a great deal of Trouble, and the greatest part of the Island a great deal of Uneasiness, and themselves the Reflection of having been in the Wrong, to the Ruin and Destruction almost of their Country, and to the Endangering that Constitution it at present happily enjoys, from the Favour of the Crown.

Indeed I am not so sanguine, (and I hope to be pardon'd for saying it) as to believe, they will so readily alter, or so willingly come into the Measures of the Government, unless the present State and Condition of Jamaica be taken into Consideration, and such Powers and Instructions be given Mr. Pitt, as may be thought necessary in the present Circumstances thereof.

And as Mr. Pitt is preparing to go and take upon him the Government of that Island, and is induc'd to go thither only on a Publick Consideration, he must be desirous to do his Duty in his Post, for the Good of the Island and his Majesty's Service; and ought to be enabled to do the same, and made easy in his Government.

It has been said by Dr. Page and others, that more than 1500 Men went on the Wrecks from Jamaica, and were

not

viii The PREFACE.

not mis'd in the Island, which I wish was true, or that there were double that Number of Men in the Country these 10 Years past. Persons of much greater Consideration have wrote from Jamaica, for near a Year past, that the Island was almost destitute of White Men, and in the greatest Danger from the Negroes. But the Number of White Men was made so considerable, to serve the Purpose of getting the Soldiers recall'd upon new-modelling Jamaica: as the Consequences of this would be dangerous, I am glad to find the Government here have determin'd their continuance, and that it has been so justly recommended to Colonel Heywood to get them an Additional Subsistence, as formerly, from the Country; and am persuaded those who have always been for providing for the Soldiers, will be more so now, from the greater Necessity and Endeavour to get some good Laws for the better Peopling and settling the Island; which will convince the Government, and show their Opponents they have not acted on any private Scheme and narrow Views, like others; but on the steady and unalterable Principle, of securing and preserving the Island, Encreasing the Number and Welfare of its Inhabitants, and doing every Thing that a Love and Zeal for their Country could inspire.

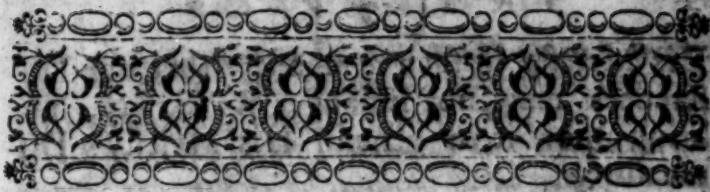
'Tis high Time to conclude, but I cannot without declaring, That if the Inhabitants of Jamaica shall be any longer deluded by the specious Pretences of designing Men, I will sit down contented, with the Satisfaction of having done my Duty, and agreeing with what a Friend wrote me from Jamaica in November last, That it must weary every honest Man to struggle for the Service of a People, who won't be govern'd by their Interest.

Septemb. 20.

1716.



TO



TO THE

Right Honourable the Lords
Commissioners for Trade
and Plantations,

*The humble Representation of the
Council of Jamaica.*

May it please your Lordships,



WE His Majesty's dutiful Subjects the Council of *Jamaica*, having, to our great Concern, seen his Majesty's particular Recommendations to this Colony by his gracious Letter to our Governour prove ineffectual, and that no Supplies have been given for the Support of his Government, nor any Measures taken for increasing our People, at a Time when there is the utmost Necessity for both, think it highly incumbent upon us to lay before your Lordships the Substance, and the Reason of our Proceedings in the late General Assembly; and we intreat your Lordships to put the most favourable Construction thereupon, and to represent the Condition of this Island to

B

His

His Majesty in such a manner, that our Differences may not indanger its Safety, nor bring upon it in general His Majesty's Displeasure.

My Lords, the Assembly met the 31st of *October*, and it might have been justly expected, after the Care your Lordships had taken of us in your Report to his Majesty, and his Majesty's great Favour, in having confirm'd two such beneficial Laws to us, which we had, in vain, endeavour'd to obtain for above Eight Years before, that all former Animosities might have been laid aside, especially since his Majesty had been pleas'd to have no Retrospection.

The Governour's Speech was little more than a communication of his Majesty's Letter, and an earnest Recommendation to us of what that contain'd: Nor was there any thing of his own added, which we thought would any ways allay that Joy we felt, and which we concluded must be rais'd in the Heart of every good Subject, from so gracious a condescention in our Sovereign.

But we soon perceiv'd the same Disposition prevail, which had unhappily divided us for some Years past. The Assembly kept their Inclination to Address separately; and we being unable to agree with them in their Resentments, and unwilling to run the Risque of any fresh Difference with them upon that Head, joyn'd with the Governour in a separate Address to His Majesty. We beg leave to refer your Lordships to those Addresses.

Your

Your Lordships will find by that of the Assemblies, that they did however assure His Majesty, that they would make an honourable Provision for his Revenue, and pay all its just Debts; and gave like Assurances (tho as we humbly conceive in a manner somewhat equivocal) with respect to the two Independent Companies. This Address they order'd to be transmitted, by their Speaker, without any Application to the Governour; and as a farther Disrespect to him, instead of addressing him in Answer to his Speech, as had always been practis'd by former Assemblies, they only sent him a Message by Two of their Members, to acquaint him with their Resolution.

• This was follow'd by other Resolutions in a few Days, That the Independent Companies were a Burden to the Country; that if the whole Regiment had been disbanded, it would have been of more Service to it, and that they had only meant to provide for the Companies now in deference to his Majesty. But as to the Debt contracted for the Subsistence of the Regiment, and the two Companies to that Time, amounting to Two Thousand Seven Hundred and Six Pound, Six Shillings and Three Pence, they voted it no publick Debt within the Construction of his Majesty's Letter, and resolv'd they could not discharge it without highly infringing upon the Liberties of the Subject. Part of this Debt is what your Lordship laid before his Majesty in your Report, and upon which his Majesty was pleased to found his Gracious Letter, with respect to the Publick Debts: And it there-

fore seems very extraordinary, that the Assembly would not allow this to be within the Construction of that Letter. But as we have already troubled your Lordships with a particular Representation concerning this Matter, we shall not further enlarge upon it here; we shall only take Notice upon these last Resolutions of the House, that we were very much surprized they could imagine the Soldiers would have become more Serviceable by being disbanded, since very few of those who were broke with the Regiment, have remained amongst us.

The Assembly were nevertheless so desirous of being rid of them, that upon the 11th of *November* they resolv'd to provide for them only for Six Months certain, and for the other Six Months, in case Two Hundred Men did not arrive in this Island before the first Six Months expired, without any regard to the Continuance or fix'd Residence of such Men, or the Increase or Decrease of our Numbers at the Expiration of that Time; but this Project appear'd so ridiculous, that it was afterwards dropt.

Whilst the Assembly were taking such Resolutions as these, which we conceived but ill Presages of any good Effects to the Country, we appointed a Committee to draw up an Estimate of his Majesty's Revenue, which had always been usual for the Council to do, and we found a Ballance of 6148*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.* wanting to make good that Estimate, besides 2000*l.* for which we had given Credit by out-standing Debts; so that upon a Ballance of Cash at that Time, his Majesty's Revenue
was

was really 8000 *l.* in Debt ; and we desired the Governour to send the same to the Assembly.

And they having order'd a Bill to be prepared for Peopling the Island, we desired the Governour likewise to send them an Abstract out of your Lordship's Letter of the 25th of *April*, together with some Instructions from his Majesty relating to that Subject ; what regard was had to them your Lordships will see, when we come to consider of the Bill they prepared.

We then took into Consideration the Trade of the Island and State of our currant Money, and being sensible there had, for some time, been a Clandestine Trade carried on with the *French* at *Hispanolia*, chiefly by Money, which was so Beneficial to them, that the Count *Blanac*, Governour of that Island, had been heard to say, That in a little Time he would bring every Ryal from *Jamaica* thither. This Trade had been carry'd on as well by Sloops as by several Ships bound for *Great-Britain*, who in their Passage home had used to touch there to Purchase *Indigo* ; which not only drained us of our currant Coin, but discouraged as well the Manufacture of *Great-Britain* as that of this Island, and was a means likewise to defraud his Majesty of his Customs, upon the Importation of Foreign Goods ; we therefore prepared a Bill, as near as could be, to the 7th and 8th of King *William*, To prevent the Exportation of Gold and Silver to all Parts, except *Great-Britain*, and his Majesty's Colonies in America. But the Assembly made such Amendments to it, as intirely

tirely defeated the intent of our Bill, which was thereby lost: And tho they afterwards, to save Appearances in the Country, pass'd another Bill, To prevent all fraudulent Trade to *Hispanolia*, and other foreign Parts, to which we consented, being all we could get; yet were we satisfy'd their Bill would neither answer the Intent, nor, as we may reasonably suppose, was it their real Intention to hinder the Exportation of our Coin, since several of their leading Members were at that very time concerned in this Trade.

My Lords, as you will observe in the Course of our Proceedings, many other Bills rejected or lost by means of Amendments; we have desired the Governour to transmit to your Lordships, all the Bills that have been raised by either Body during this Assembly, with the Amendments made by the other part of the Legislature; that your Lordships may judge, if your Leisure will permit you to peruse them, to whom the Loss of any beneficial Acts is to be imputed.

The first Bill we received from them was, *A Bill to explain such part of a certain Act*, intitled, *An Act for Prevention of Law Suits, as relates to Escheates*; which we rejected, because we thought it inconsistent with that so much desired Act for quieting Possessions, that it would not only deprive the Subject of much of the Benefit intended him by that Act, but render the Titles under Escheat Patents, so very precarious, that no Body would venture to purchase them, and consequently great Quantities of Land must lie waste, which it was our Business to get cultivated,

tivated, and which the A^ct for preventing of Law-Suits was intended to incourage.

Indeed, my Lords, if you give your selves the Trouble to consider this Bill, you will perceive to what a length Men will be carried by their Prejudices. We confess, we can discern no other Aim by it, than to deprive the Governour of some accidental Perquisites, for which they would have been contented to have brought Inconveniencies upon themselves and their Country. If your Lordships shall be of Opinion, it were better to sell Escheats by Out-cry, tho' there may be some Objections to that Method, we shall readily come into it.

The same Morning the Assembly sent us up another Bill, for repealing an A^ct, intituled, *An A^ct for the better securing the Estates and Interests of Orphans and Creditors, and to oblige Executors to give Security, and to return Appraisements into the Secretary's Office in this Island, and for obliging Executors to return Inventories, and for securing and improving the Estates of Orphans,* to which we made some Amendments; and by adhering to them, the Bill miscarried.

My Lords, this A^ct which the Assembly would have Repeal'd, lies now under your Lordships Consideration; and we think, the great Abuses committed here in Executorships, of which there are many Instances, make such an A^ct absolutely necessary: And we must take notice to your Lordships, that as well in the Bill to Repeal this A^ct, as in several others, the Assembly have recited great Inconveniencies to have hapned, without being able to particularize any; however, we will
acknow-

acknowledge to your Lordships, that if we could have had that Act explain'd agreeable to our Amendments, we should have preferred it; because the Security requir'd would then have been ascertain'd, and our Governours restrain'd from granting the Administration, with the Will annex'd, otherwise than the Law directs. If your Lordships approve such an Explanation, and be pleased to recommend it, we shall readily agree to it; in the mean time, we hope your Lordships will recommend that before you for His Majesty's Approbation.

The next Bill we received was, *An Act for granting further Relief, in relation to proving Wills and Testaments, and granting Letters of Administration of Intestate Estates*; which appeared to us to be intended to transfer the Power of Ordinary from the Governour, in whom his Majesty had plac'd it, and to Vest it in the Secretary and the Grand Court: And as we conceived, it was not any ways likely to provide a speedy Remedy, as the Assembly would have been thought to intend, but rather have serv'd to multiply Law-Suits, we rejected it.

Soon after this they sent us another Bill, intitl'd, *An Act for applying a Sum, not exceeding 1300 l. curram Money of Jamaica, to make good 900 l. Sterling, for the Solliciting the passing of Laws, and other Publick Affairs of this Island in Great-Britain, for 3 Years*; by which we were obliged to do the like. Your Lordships will observe, that in effect Four of their own Members were to be intrusted by this Bill, with representing the Affairs of this Island,

Island; and soliciting such Matters as they should think fit, without the least Privy of the Governour, or any one Member of the Council; which we thought too extensive a Power to be lodg'd in Persons, who had discover'd so much Passion and Resentment. But to convince your Lordships we were not averse to a soliciting Bill, such as was consistent with his Majesty's Honour, and the Trust he had been pleased to repose in his Governour and Council: We offered them, that if they would pass such an one as might intrust a Gentleman of Distinction in *Great-Britain*, disinterested in this Island, who might receive his Instructions from the Governour, Council and Assembly, when sitting, and when no Assembly from the Governour and Council, to whom the Speaker of the present or preceeding Assembly might always be joined, and all the Instructions given in the Interval of Assemblies, to be laid before them at their next Meeting, we would readily come into it. This they did not think fit to accept of, but chose rather to set on foot Subscriptions in their own House, and by a sort of Ordinance (which was read Twice in their House, and had probably been read a Third Time, if they had not been alarm'd by some Observations upon their Proceedings) recommended the same to the Country, and have thereby raised a much more considerable Sum of Money than was proposed by the soliciting Bill.

At length, after a Month's sitting, we received a Money Bill, intituled, *An Act to oblige the several Inhabitants of this Island, to*
 e *provide*

provide themselves with a sufficient Number of White People, and to maintain such as shall come over within the space of 3 Years, or pay certain Sums of Money in case they shall be deficient, and applying the same to several Uses. And also another Bill, intituled, An Act to encourage the bringing over and settling White People in this Island. Which two Bills were blended together in the Nature of a Tack, and upon these depended our Expectations, of being able to comply with his Majesty's most gracious Letter; we soon found, upon our reading them, how much we were likely to be disappointed.

Your Lordships will best judge, what regard they have shewn to your Letter, and the Articles of his Majesty's Instructions sent to them by the Governour, relating to the Peopling of the Island; which they never vouchsafed to enter upon their Minutes, or so much as to read in the House. Upon perusing these Bills, we hope your Lordships will be of Opinion, they were not fit to be pass'd without Amendments.

The most material of these we made to the first of these Bills, were to provide, that the Money raised should be paid into the Hands of his Majesty's Receiver-General, and issued according to the Directions of his Majesty's Patent and Instructions to the Governour, to rectify the partial Taxation of the King's Officers, and to provide as well for Recruits sent from *Europe*, as the Soldiers already enlisted. And to the Second, we made the like Amendment, as to the Receiver-General; we proposed a better Encouragement

ment for People at their Landing, and a better Method, as we conceive, for the purchasing Lands, and conveying them to New Settlers; and we gave Relief to the Town of *Kingston*, who, to the Number of 150 Persons, petition'd us against a Clause in this Act, by which they apprehended their Town would be ruin'd: and set forth, with great Reason, that their Grievance was the greater, because theirs only was effected by it.

Before we give your Lordships our Reasons for some of the Amendments, it may be proper to compare these Bills with the Act to encourage the Importation of White Men, pass'd in 1703. And if the Encouragement now propos'd, is less than that already provided, your Lordships will not think it reasonable for us to have made great Concessions to obtain those Bills, which must have been a Suspension of the former.

The Rewards to Masters of Ships for bringing over People, are greater in the Act of 1703, and the Deficiency higher for maintaining them: Besides, by that Act, the Planter who is deficient, is oblig'd to receive them, and to pay for them, which is a perpetual Fund for bringing over more: Whereas by those Bills which were but Temporary, there was no Obligation upon any Body to receive People that were brought over, nor any Provision for their Subsistence when they came.

But if there had been no other Objections, we are very well assured your Lordships would have approved our not passing Bills,

which instead of Peopling the Island, would probably have drove away great Numbers of our trading People, or at least have drove them (as some have thought the Design was) to settle at *Port-Royal*, to avoid the Tax, and which, instead of providing for the Independent Companies in the manner his Majesty had been pleas'd to recommend, were calculated in effect, to prevent their being Recruited: But we must have done this, and a great deal more, if we would have purchased those Bills; for the Assembly refus'd us so much as Conference upon either of them: And as to our Amendments, told us, in a manner we think too insulting, that the only Amendment they could think of admitting (if it was not against their Rules) was instead of *a Name*, to say *the Names*.

My Lords, we conceive this was trifling upon a very serious Subject; they began now to tell us, that we must not only not amend Money-Bills, but we must have no hand in providing for the Peopling our Country: It behoved us to shew we had a Right to both, and we desired the Governour would be pleased to send them an Extract out of your Lordship's Letter of the 25th of *April* 1715. wherein you were pleased to declare it such. And the Governour sent them down at the same Time, Extracts out of his Majesty's Patent and Instructions; conformable to which, our Amendments relating to the Receiver-General, and to the Issuing of Publick Money were made; we are concern'd at our being obliged to acquaint your Lordships, these had so little Effect upon the Assembly, that

that they did not so much as think fit to read them in the House.

However, we thought it our Interest as well as our Duty, to have more regard to them, since we were convinc'd they had been calculated for the Benefit and Advantage of the King's Subjects. Your Lordships will find upon Examination, that it has been but within these very few Years, that Assemblies have taken upon them to nominate Commissioners for the Receipt of Publick Monies; and having bestow'd such Commissions from Time to Time, on the Favourites of different Parties alternatively, as they prevailed; the Publick Money has been transfer'd from one Hand to another, till some has been charg'd with 9, some with 13, and some with 17 *per Cent.* Commission, and upwards, of which we laid a Computation before the Assembly, and shew'd them, that the Publick had been charg'd with above 5000 *l.* for extraordinary Commission in a very few Years, more than would have been, in case the Money had been paid into the Hands of Receiver-General, according to his Majesty's Directions.

We will not take upon our selves to give your Lordships the Reasons, why Governours of late have suffer'd this Practice to be introduc'd; nor can we tell, whether these Instructions have been given to former Governours, which has been industriously given out by the Partizans of the Assembly, and an Argument drawn from thence, that being old and not having been regarded for some Time past, they were not to be regarded now.

now. My Lords, this would be an Argument to justify Encroachment without end. We observe by the Instructions, his Majesty requires his Governours to communicate them as he shall see occasion ; Major-General *Handyside*, in case he had the same Instructions, through the want of so great Supplies as he might have Occasion for in Time of War, might not think fit to communicate such Instructions, and might give his Reasons for it to her late Majesty : But we humbly conceive his present Majesty's Instructions, when communicated by the present Governour, ought not therefore to be less regarded. And we think publick Utility alone might have been sufficient to have inforc'd the Observance of them, but from the several other Encroachments lately made by the Assembly, of which we may have Occasion to take some further Notice ; we think it was for his Majesty's Service, and the Service of the Publick, to communicate them at this Time.

Your Lordships Declaration of our Right to amend Money Bills, is agreeable to the almost uninterrupted Practice of former Assemblies ; among our Presidents, we find Committees of the Council often join'd with those of the Assembly, and appointed to draw up Money Bills together ; and nothing is more common, than the Council's amending Money Bills, and conferring upon them.

But this Assembly, notwithstanding what your Lordships have expressly wrote on that Subject, have declared themselves a House of Commons, and have assumed all the Privileges of it, and acted with a much more unlimited

limited Authority, and by peremptorily refusing any of our Amendments, from some of which we conceiv'd we could not in Duty to his Majesty, and Justice to our selves and our Country recede, these Bills were lost, tho in our humble Opinions, little Loss thereby attended the Publick, more than of the 2000 *l.* apply'd to the immediate Subsistence of the Companies. The Act of 1703, and another pass'd in 1712, if put in Execution, which we are humbly of Opinion ought to be done, being, tho not sufficient, yet a far better Provision for increasing our Inhabitants than those Bills would have been, if they had pass'd.

The Assembly had now sat Two Months, and as yet we had seen nothing done towards making an honourable Provision for his Majesty's Revenue, agreeable to the Assurances they had given by their Address: when on the 27th of December, we received a Bill, entitled, *An Act to impose Duties on several Commodities, to defray the extraordinary Charges of the Government, and applying the same to several Uses.*

Out of the Fund to be rais'd by this Bill, 3000 *l.* only was apply'd to his Majesty's Revenue, tho we had shewn them by an Estimate Two Months ago, that 8000 *l.* was then wanting, besides what had been disburs'd for the Soldiers, to defray its just Debts, which were now somewhat increas'd; and 2000 *l.* was indeed again apply'd to the Subsistence of the Companies for the Year ensuing; but your Lordships will observe, this was to be purchas'd by the same and greater Con-

Concessions than the Bill we had just rejected.

Mr. *John Chaplin*, a Favourite of the now prevailing Party, was appointed Commissioner; into whose Hands, as well the Money arising by this Act, as about 7 or 8000 *l.* already rais'd by a former Act of this kind, and now in the Hands of Mr. *Major*, was required to be paid, and Mr. *Chaplin* was to have 7 *per Cent.* Commission. Upon the whole, by this Bill Mr. *Major* had already received 4 *per Cent.* upon what was in his Hands. Messieurs *Page* and *Welch* Commissaries, were to have 7 and a half *per Cent.* upon 2000 *l.* to be transfer'd to them by Mr. *Chaplain*, for the Account of the Soldiers, and the Receiver-General 5 *per Cent.* upon the 3000 *l.* transfer'd to the Account of his Majesty's Revenue: Whereas if all the Publick Money rais'd was paid into the Hands of his Majesty's Receiver-General, according to his Majesty's Instructions, Two and a Half *per Cent.* we think would be a sufficient Allowance; and then the Extraordinary Commission upon the Money rais'd, and to arise by this Bill only, amounts to 1340 *l.* which would have been thereby saved to the Publick.

But if your Lordships give your selves the Trouble of inspecting the Receiver-General's Patent, you will find the Receipt of all Duties upon Imports expressly granted to him, and which we don't find to have ever been alienated from that Office, till within these few Years, since the Assembly have began their Incroachments. And this has occasion'd a further extraordinary Charge to the Government;

ment, by a double Number of Waiters, and a double Charge and Trouble to Traders and Shipping, by obliging them to Enter in two Offices instead of One.

Another Encroachment the Assemblies have made of late Years upon the Authority of the Government has been, by inserting Clauses in their Bills to issue Money, and particularly for gratifying the Officers attending them, who had always, till of late, been rewarded by the Government, upon the Recommendation of the Assembly. By this Bill they have exceeded all former Precedents of their own, and brought in a Chaplain and his Clerk, for a Share of Publick Money, which is the first Instance of this kind, in order to increase the Number of their Dependants.

Your Lordships, we are perswaded, will not think this an immaterial Observation, when you compare it with other Circumstances. In their Taxation of the King's Officers, this Assembly has varied from all former, and instead of laying their Taxes according to the Precedents for many Years past, they have tax'd his Majesty's Attorney-General, whose Office was never tax'd before, and have doubled the Tax of some Officers, and eas'd others, according to their private Inclinations to the Persons, and without any Examination into, or regard to the Value of the Office. This they have carried to such a height, that Patentees of Offices in *England* have been warn'd by the Agents * of the As-

* *Mr. Compere, the Receiver-General.*

sembly (as may reasonably be suppos'd, from their acting agreeable to such Warning) to advise their Deputies here not to espouse the Cause they have done, meaning the Governments, least their Tax be increas'd for it. If such Methods be pursu'd and tolerated, we submit to your Lordships who in effect must come to be Governours.

My Lords, we have a further Reason to offer to your Lordships, against appointing Commissioners for Receipt of Publick Monies: Since this Practice has been introduc'd, and particular Men have been design'd to make Advantages out of the Publick, generally twice the Money has been rais'd, to what has been apply'd to any immediate Occasion; so that the Residue has continu'd some Years, at least as long as that Party has prevailed, in the Hands of the Commissioners. This has happened to be the Case, in respect to the Money in Mr. *Major's* Hands, and would, in all likelihood, have been the Case if those Bills, now rais'd by the Assembly, had pass'd, not half the Money which they would probably have rais'd being appropriated to any immediate Service.

For these Reasons, and what we have already acquainted your Lordships with regard to the other Bills, we thought our selves oblig'd to make Amendments to this; but the Assembly would neither admit our Right to amend or confer, and so this, as the former, came to nothing.

Hereupon, my Lords, we sent them a Proposal, desiring them for the Publick Service, and that no difference between us might obstruct

trust our Compliance in some Measure with his Majesty's gracious Letter, that they would pass a short Bill, for applying the Money in Mr. Major's Hands, to the present Exigencies of the Government, in such manner as might not be contradictory to his Majesty's Patent and Instructions; and to assure them, that we would agree to it, and submit all other Differences to his Majesty's determination: What they did in compliance to this, we must acquaint your Lordships with, when we proceed to our account of a 2d Session.

But we received two other Bills this Session, which we think our selves obliged to give your Lordships some account of.

One was intituled, *An Act to secure the Freedom of Elections, and directing the Proceedings in the Choice of Members to serve in Assemblies in this Island.* To this we agreed, with two Amendments, which we could hardly imagine possible to be refus'd: One was to oblige every Voter, if required, to take the Oaths to the Government; and the other, to oblige them to swear their Freehold was of the Value of Thirty Pound currant Money of *Jam-dica*; but the Assembly chose rather to drop their Bill, than agree to these Amendments.

We must not omit here to acquaint your Lordships with some of our Reasons for this Amendment of Thirty Pound Value: There has been a notorious Practice by some of the leading Men of this Assembly, and by the Messenger thereof, which we suppose has been his Merit for the extravagant Rewards they would have given him, to create Sham-Freeholders to vote. Your Lordships will find

several very extraordinary Instances of this nature upon our Journals, and such as we are apprehensive might even call in question the Legality of Assemblies so chosen. By the same unwarrantable Practice, a Governour might at any Time Patent out the barren Rocks, Mountains, and Sands in this Island, and carry Elections as he pleas'd; and we thought this Amendment would equally prevent such Practices on all sides: But this has serv'd a present Turn, and therefore was not judg'd a good Argument now.

The other Bill was intituled, *An Act for the effectual Discovery of all Persons that are disaffected to his Majesty and his Government; and to prevent all such Persons holding any Office or Place of Trust within this Island.* This, my Lords, carried a very specious Title, but we were surpriz'd when we read it, to find it the most rigorous Bill against Protestant Dissenters of all sorts, that had ever been pass'd in any of his Majesty's Dominions since the Reformation. We immediately amended it, by turning the Edge against Papists only, and exempting all Protestant Dissenters, tolerated by the Laws of *England*; to which Amendments the Assembly could not but agree, and so this Bill was pass'd. But, my Lords, as we had at this Time sign'd an Association, to stand by his Majesty's Person and Government; and as we have, in our humbly Address to his Majesty, assur'd him that we are, in the sincerity of our Hearts, averse to the Thoughts of the Pretender and the Miseries of Popery and Slavery, that must attend his Success; so we could rather wish we had not
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joyn'd with the Assembly, in the pretended Instance of Loyalty, express'd by this Bill; even with our own Amendments; we think it, my Lords, very ill suited in many respects, to our Condition, as an unpeopled Colony, and as such have desired the Governour to represent it to your Lordships; tho when your Lordships are fully appriz'd of the great Clamour the Assembly have endeavour'd to stir up against us at this Time, we hope you will be satisfy'd we were not in the Wrong to agree to it with such Amendments, especially when you observe in it a Clause, to lay double Taxes upon his Majesty's Enemies

It was now the 5th of *January*, and the Assembly letting the Governour know, that they would prepare no other Bills for raising of Money this Session, he was pleas'd to pass this last Bill and two others, and prorogue them to the 16th Instant.

My Lords, at the Opening of this second Session, the Governour again recommended to them, the complying with his Majesty's Letter, and told them, If they did not take care to provide for the Support of the Government, Measures would be taken elsewhere effectually to do it.

But it soon appear'd there was little hopes of any such Compliance: They return'd the Governour no other Answer to his Speech, than by their Resolutions upon their Minutes, which were no more, than to do again what they had done in the last Session, with this Addition by their Committee (whether agreed to by the House or not does not appear) that if it had not been out of the utmost Duty
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and Regard to his Majesty's Recommendation, they would have rais'd no more Money whilst his Lordship continued in the Government.

On they 2d of February they sent us a Bill, intitl'd, *An Act for appropriating several Sums of Money already arisen, for the Subsistence of his Majesty's Officers and Soldiers, and discharging publick Debts.* We have already acquainted your Lordships, that there was a Sum of Money in Mr. Major's Hands; the same amounted in Cash to about 3700 *l.* and above 4000 *l.* out-standing Debts, and had lain upwards of three Years unapply'd. By this Bill the Assembly apply'd 2000 *l.* to the Subsistence of the Soldiers: and by particular Clauses, direct the Issuing of upwards of 2700 *l.* more to particular Persons; and out of the Remainder of the out-standing Debts, apply 3000 *l.* to his Majesty's Revenue.

Your Lordships will readily conceive what an honourable Provision here was made for his Majesty's Revenue, it being very questionable, whether so much of those out-standing Debts will ever prove good, as to have answer'd that Application; and should they have answer'd, it would have been a considerable Time before they had been recover'd. And his Majesty's Revenue was expressly provided by the Bill, to be supply'd in the last place.

But, my Lords, there was a proviso in this Bill, which seem'd to be intended to prevent its passing; and that was, That no private Soldier should receive any Substance that was not actually inlisted in one of the said Independent Companies, at the Time the Regiment

ment was reduc'd. This was plainly intended to prevent Recruits, and to suffer the Companies to dwindle away, which we thought would appear highly disrespectful to his Majesty; and we therefore sent them a Message, and desired to know, Whether they would admit of any Amendment to the said Bill, or confer with us thereupon; both which they peremptorily refus'd, telling us, That to admit our amending Money Bills, was to subvert the Constitution, tho they had before them your Lordships Opinion, that their Pretence to exclude us from such a Right, was the real Violation of it.

Your Lordships will, we hope, approve our rejecting this Bill likewise; which, with respect to the Recruits, we thought was showing a distrust of his Majesty's gracious Assurances, as well as of immediate disservice to the Island.

In a few Days after the Assembly sent the Governour a Message by three of their Members, in very indecent Terms, reflecting upon him, and questioning his Loyalty to his Majesty; which the Governour immediately resented by a sharp Reply; and concluding they were determin'd to do nothing for the Support of the Government, or the Service the Country, sent for them the same Morning, being the 11th of *February*, and Dissolv'd them.

Upon the whole, your Lordships will undoubtedly perceive, that there are two things principally aimed at by the leading Men of this Assembly, who have blinded many others with specious Pretences of Publick Service,

vice, and the Privileges of a House of Commons : These are to remove our present Governour, and likewise the two Independant Companies.

In order to effect these extraordinary Benefits to the Island, numberless Lies and Stories have been industriously spread about the Country, which are not easily answer'd where there is no Press ; by these the happy Effect of his Majesty's great Favour to us has been prevented, by false Suggestions of Endeavours to obstruct them ; and these they seem at last to hope to accomplish, by distressing the Government here, in giving no Supplies, and by means of the unjustifiable Collections they have made.

As to the first, by the State of the Island, which a Committee of the House have drawn up, and which tho in many Particulars very unfairly stated, the Assembly have resolv'd should be part of their Representation to his Majesty, your Lordships will perceive what Grievances, with all the Industry, and with all the Inclination possible, they have been able to collect.

We do assure your Lordships, that tho we have a great personal Esteem and Regard for the Lord *Archibald Hamilton*, as a Person who we think has govern'd with great Humanity and perfect Integrity, yet our principal Endeavours have been to act according to the best of our Judgments, for the Honour of his Majesty, with Duty to his Representative, and for the Interest of our Country ; and therefore if we had been sensible of any real Grievances, or any Inconveniencies likely

to happen from his Majesty's Instructions, we would not have been wanting on our Parts to have joyn'd with the Assembly in an humble and dutiful Representation of them to his Majesty ; but we have not thought it consistent with our Duty to his Majesty, or the Good of our Country, to join in peevish Complaints, stir'd up by the restless Passions and Prejudice of two or three Persons against a Governour, whose Lenity in his Government has too much encourag'd them, but against whom not the least Act of Injustice or Oppression, that we know of, can be made appear : And we submit it to your Lordships, whether the yielding to the unreasonable Desires of such Men, accompany'd with such disrespectful Proceedings to his Majesty, be likely to be attended with any good Effect to the Authority of his Majesty, or the Good of this Island. We confess, my Lords, in our humble Opinion, we think it will not ; because instead of any Oppression from our Governour, the eldest amongst us does not remember greater Hardships offer'd, nor greater Oppressions done in this Island, than have been by this Assembly to their Fellow-Subjects ; the Particulars whereof your Lordships will find upon their own Journals, and by them will judge, if the Council have not made a Stand for the Liberties of the Subject, as well as for the just Authority of the Crown

As to the two Independent Companies, we humbly offer, as our Opinion to your Lordships, that for the Reasons contain'd in

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your Lordships Report to his Majesty, and for that chiefly by the unhappy Accident of the *Spanish* Wreck, from the Allurements of which, however unlawful, it has not been possible to restrain our People: our Number of Inhabitants are still decreased, whilst our Neighbours on *Hispanolia* flourish under a much more unhappy Government; and for that the keeping constant Guards would too much Harrafs and Discourage the middling and poorer sort of People, those Companies are, we think, absolutely necessary for the Good and Safety of this Island, to be kept on foot, at least until we shall have double the Number of Inhabitants that we have at present.

We have now laid before your Lordships our Proceedings in the Assembly, with our humble Opinions in relation to the principal Matters; and we submit the same to your Lordships great Wisdom, and intreat you to recommend the Condition of this Colony to his Majesty's speedy and effectual Care. What we have thought our selves obliged, in the mean time, to advise, as his Majesty's Council to the Governour, in consequence of our Disappointments, and of the mutinous Disposition which had already been kindled among the Soldiers, and in order to provide for the Support of his Majesty's Government, and the Peace and Quiet of his Subjects, until his farther Pleasure be signify'd, we must leave to the Governour to acquaint your Lordships with; and we humbly hope, that the Necessity of
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our Affairs will not only warrant the Measures we have advis'd, but that we shall obtain your Lordships favourable Opinion; which, if we are so happy to do, we shall not then distrust upon the Report of so faithful and able Ministers, his Majesty's gracious Approbation.



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TO



TO THE

Right Honourable the Lords
Commissioners for Trade
and Plantations,

*The humble Memorial of the
Council of Jamaica.*

May it please your Lordships,



His Majesty's most dutiful
Subjects, the Council of Ja-
maica, having by an humble
Representation, already laid be-
fore your Lordships the Ac-
count of our Proceedings in the
late General Assembly; and being desirous
above all things, to testify our sincere Inten-
tions to do what lies in us for rendring ef-
fectual those necessary Means recommended
by his Majesty, for the Happiness and Secu-
rity of this Colony, have likewise prepared
this our humble Memorial, and desired the
same may be laid before your Lordships, in
case you shall have approved our former Pro-
ceedings, without which it had been too
much Presumption in us to have troubled
your

your Lordships with our further Opinion, in relation to the Affairs of this his Majesty's Island.

My Lords, encourag'd by your Lordships favourable Approbation, if we are so happy to obtain it, we humbly offer it as our Opinion, that in order to Redress the unhappy State of our Affairs here, Two things, which his Majesty has been pleased to recommend, are both absolutely necessary to be comply'd with, to wit, That an honourable Provision be made for his Majesty's Revenue, and effectual Measures taken for Peopling the Island. By an honourable Provision, we humbly conceive, ought to be understood a Revenue equal to the annual Charge of the Government, the latter now exceeding the former about 2000 *per Annum*. This has been occasion'd, in great measure, by the Decrease of Inhabitants, the Consumption decreasing, and consequently, the Duties upon Imposts. And to this want of an annual Supply, to support what we may call the Civil List, we think the Weakness of the just Authority of the Government, and the Growth and Power of Party, is chiefly to be imputed.

The Charge of the Government we compute at 6000 *per Annum*, and the Revenue at 4000 *l. per Annum*; besides which, there is near 3000 *l. per Annum* wanting to provide an additional Subsistence for the two Independent Companies, so long as his Majesty shall think fit to continue them.

My Lords, we think there are but Two ways by which this may be possibly remedied, either by lessening the Charge of the Govern-

Government, or *increasing the Revenue*. As to the first, we confess we cannot see how the Charge of the Government can be materially less'n'd; we are sensible some among us have Projects of proposing this, by desiring his Majesty to appoint a Lieutenant Governour, which has the Appearance of saving 1250 *l. per Annum*. Even this your Lordships will observe is not sufficient, and will still leave his Majesty's Government in the Power of a Party to Support or Distress it; besides, we must, for our own sakes, inform your Lordships, that many Advantages our Governours have formerly made, are taken away by that beneficial A&t for quieting Possessions, and their Perquisites are not so great in Time of Peace as in War; and we therefore think it our greatest Happiness and best Security, at this distance, that their Salary and just Advantages should be such, as may not subject them to Temptations; for which Reasons, and what we have humbly offer'd in our Representation, we cannot think this a fit Expedient, especially at this Time.

The Additional Duty Bill, as it was prepared this last Session of Assembly, with the Amendments made by the Council, as to the Duty upon Imports and Exports, we humbly offer to your Lordships Consideration, as what would not only answer all the Occasions of the Government, but would admit of about 2000 *l. per Annum*, to be laid out in bringing over and settling Inhabitants; and this we humbly conceive to be the easiest and most equal Tax that can be laid upon the

the Inhabitants; especially considering the Planters, by the Acts of 1703 and 1712, for bringing over and providing for White People, in case they are put in Execution, are sufficiently tax'd already for their Deficiencies.

And we humbly offer to your Lordships Consideration, in case you should think fit to recommend the passing such an Act, if it would not be more adviseable, that it be pass'd for some few Years, such a Number as your Lordships may judge most proper; during which time, Acts made for the Increase of Inhabitants, and the Encouragement provided for them may be known and take Effect, and during which the Divisions amongst us may be heal'd or worn out.

But in such Case we humbly recommend to your Lordships, that you will be pleas'd to advise his Majesty, to give the Governour Instructions, not to disuse or lay aside Assemblies, but to direct the same to be call'd every Year, and to allow them Liberty to sit and pass such Laws as may be thought necessary for the better Regulating the Affairs of the Island; and that they may have full and free Liberty to Inspect all publick Accounts, and see the Application of all Publick Money, and represent the same to his Majesty as they may find Occasion.

This, my Lords, or something equivalent to it, is what we could heartily wish an Assembly could be prevail'd upon to come into; but if, contrary to our Wishes, they should not, we most humbly beg your Lordships to think of such Expedients as may be
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least Exceptionable, and admit of the least Delay, which our Condition will not admit. And we are persuaded from your Lordships Observations upon the Proceedings in this Island for these few Years; from the Divisions that have grown up amongst us, and the want of Publick Spirit in pursuing the general Interest, your Lordships will not be of Opinion to advise his Majesty to leave the Government here any longer to subsist precariously.

My Lords, as to the second Point, of Peopling this Island; we have seriously considered all that his Majesty, by your Lordships Advice, has been pleas'd to recommend on that Subject; as likewise what your Lordships have wrote as your own, and transmitted to the Governour, as the Opinion of the Merchants and Gentlemen concerned in this Island, now in *Britain*.

We intirely agree with your Lordships, that the Act for regulating Servants is too severe, both with respect to most of the Penalties, and the Length of the Servitude; but at the same time we must acquaint your Lordships, that the same has rarely been executed with strictness; and we think it ought not so to be, until it may be repeal'd, and a better Regulation substituted in its room.

We likewise agree with your Lordships, that all possible Indulgence ought to be given, for the Incouragement of People to settle among us, and shall be ready, on our Parts, to give our Consents to any such Laws. In the mean time we are humbly of Opinion, that the Acts in force, for the Encouragement
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of bringing them over, ought to be put in Execution, and have great Hopes, that a considerable Number of Inhabitants may be acquired thereby.

Your Lordships will find, that one of the Acts you have taken Notice of in your Letter of the 25th of *April*, to wit, *An Act for Encouraging the Importation of White Servants*, is repealed by a Clause in an Act to encourage the Importation of White Men; which last we think to be a good Law. By this Act every Planter is obliged to keep one White Man for his first 10 Negroes, young and old; and Two for the first 20, and one for every 20 after the first; and in like manner, for the first 60 Head of Cattle, Horses, &c. one for every 100 after the first 60. The Passages of these Men are required to be paid by the Receiver-General, and are to be plac'd upon the Planters, according to such Deficiencies; and they are obliged to Reimburse the Receiver-General for them again, who is to apply that Money towards paying the Passage of others; so that this is a perpetual Fund, and only wants a Sum of Money to enable the Receiver-General to make the first Disbursement; for which 500 *l.* was appropriated by that Act; but little as it was, we don't find it was ever apply'd. By the proportion of White Men to Blacks, at this time, we compute at least 2000 Men might be provided for by this Deficiency.

By the same Act, every Boat, Wherry, or Canoa, is required to keep a White Man, or forfeit 40 *s.* per Month; which would be a Provision for at least 200 Men more.

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And

And by another Act pass'd in 1712, entitl'd, *An Act to encourage White Men to come, to continue, and settle in this Island*; there is a further Provision made, by obliging Vessels trading about this Island, Hackney Coaches and Wherries, to employ White People; so that we cannot think there is altogether so great want of Laws, for the Encouragement of bringing over People, as of a virtuous and strict Execution of these Laws, and of others, to establish and fix them here as Inhabitants, when they are brought, by providing a good and comfortable Prospect of Living for Servants, when their Time is expired, either in the planting Interest or in Trades.

Indeed what seems most defective in these Laws is, that there is no Provision for the Encouragement of Women; which defect, we hope, may be remedy'd hereafter.

We entirely agree with your Lordships in the Encouragement you propose, of granting small Parcels of Land to New Comers to settle; and are of Opinion with those Gentlemen who signed a Memorial to your Lordships, that a reasonable Tax upon uncultivated Land, of which there are great Quantities in this Island, would be the best Means to induce the present Proprietors to cultivate or sell the same: And until such Purchases can be made to those Uses, we have made our humble Application to the Governour, to grant no more Warrants for Patenting any Land which now remains in his Majesty, to Persons who are already possess'd of large Tracts, but reserve the same for the Purposes aforesaid. However, when such Warrants come
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to be made, we humbly conceive there ought at the same time, to be a Fund provided to give Credit to such new Settlers, for a Slave or two, for 6 Months Provisions at least, and for proper Tools to begin such a Settlement; without which help it will be almost impossible for them to have any Benefit by such Grants; especially considering the Lands so to be granted, will lie mostly in uninhabited Parts of the Island, and very distant from any Markets: And if such Credit was given them, without Interest, and the Publick to be paid out of the Produce of the Land granted, and such new Settlers were, at the same time, exempted from all Taxes, and all Duties Civil and Military (except only in cases of Insurrection and Invasion) for the first 3 Years, we think this would be an Encouragement equal to any given in *Hispaniola*, where they are abundantly increas'd of late, and would be sufficient to augment the Number of Provision Plantations, and small Settlements; in which, and not in great Plantations, the strength of the planting Interest, with respect to Numbers of White People, must consist. And if this Encouragement, or a suitable Prospect in Trade or Handicrafts, was to be the Reward of every Servant after 3 or 4 Years Service, we are apt to believe it would not only render such Service much more agreeable, but that a larger Improvement would be made by Servants provided for in the manner above, until they were season'd to the Country, and understood the nature of Planting, than by Persons free at their Arrival; for whom no other Provision was

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made,

made, than such a Grant of Land. At the same time, we are not against your Lordships Method, of freeing them at their Arrival, either with such Helps as are necessary, or as soon as there can be any Expectation of their being able to provide for themselves.

And we are humbly of Opinion, that all such Purchases and Grants will be best made by the Crown, with such Clauses and Restrictions as your Lordships shall think proper to recommend.

We likewise agree with your Lordships, with respect to Trades, and humbly conceive the most effectual Means of putting an End to Negro Tradefinen, would be by a Register to be taken of all that now are, or have been for a Year last past brought up to any Trade; and to tolerate such, and suffer them to die away, providing under severe Penalties, that no Slave for the future be brought up or employ'd in them, either in Plantations or in the Towns, with such Exceptions only as to Master Workmen, as may be thought reasonable. This we think most likely to be effected by a Saving to the present Proprietors, which we conceive to be most reasonable, because many Persons, and some Widows and Orphans, have now their whole Subsistence from such Slaves: and as these wear out, White Men would, by degrees, as we get them, come into all Trades, and have a Prospect in time of being only employ'd in them.

And as great Numbers of his Majesty's Subjects have of late been seduc'd by the Enemies of our Constitution, and engag'd in
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an unnatural Rebellion, to many of whom his Majesty, in his Princely Clemency, may be pleased to extend his Mercy, but at the same time think fit to order their Transportation, we presume humbly to propose to your Lordships, so many of such Persons may be immediately sent hither as his Majesty shall think fit, who may be provided for by the Acts now in force only; we must beg your Lordships to interceed in our Behalf, that their Passages may be paid by his Majesty, until by such Methods as your Lordships shall advise his Majesty's Revenue here be put into a Condition to pay the Debts of the Government, and defray such other Charges.

We are now apprehensive of having tired your Lordships Patience, and therefore will enter into no further Particulars.

We must not, however, omit returning our humble Thanks to your Lordships, for having advis'd his Majesty to restrain our Governours by his Royal Instructions, from suspending any of our Body without just and sufficient Cause, and without the Consent of a Majority. By this we are enabled to act with freedom, and according to our Consciences and the best of our Understandings: and as we are thereby secur'd from causeless Suspensions, we do assure your Lordships we shall, in Duty to his Majesty, give our Consent to any such, when it shall appear absolutely necessary for his Majesty's Service, and then only. And we humbly intreat your Lordships to judge of the sincerity of our Inclinations to his Majesty's Service, and to
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the Encouraging of the Settlement of this Island, by what we have now the Honour to lay before you: The Maxim upon which we would People the Island, and in which we have the Misfortune to be over-power'd by Numbers, is to indulge and cherish new Comers and small Settlements, and to throw the Burden chiefly on those who are best able to bear it; which however, we conceive, would be made up to them, by raising the Value of Estates in proportion, as it renders them more secure.

All which we humbly submit to Your Lordships great Wisdom.





TO THE
KING's *most Excellent Majesty,*

The humble Address of the Governor
and Council of *Jamaica.*

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE your Majesty's most dutiful
and Loyal Subjects, the Governor
and Council of his Majesty's Island of *Jamaica*, beg
leave, with Hearts full of Joy, to congratulate your Majesty upon the signal Success of
your Arms, in so speedily and effectually
Suppressing an unnatural and causeless Rebellion, raised in Favour of a Popish Pretender to your Crown.

This happy Event, which secures to Us our Religion, Liberty, and what else is valuable to us, attack'd in so desperate a Manner, by the Enemies of our Constitution, can only be attributed, under the Divine Assistance, to your Majesty's steady Conduct in the Disposition of Affairs, and to the prudent Use of that entire Confidence, which has been so seasonably and so wisely reposed in your Majesty by Parliament, beyond any of your Royal Predecessors.

As no Part of your Majesty's Dominions has more sensibly felt the Miseries and Calamities

lamities which Invasions cause; or have had a more entire Dependence for their future Prospect of Security upon your Majesty's Succession; so none can more truly share, or be more sensibly affected with the happy Consequences of this Success, than your Loyal Subjects of this Island.

Nor has our Remoteness from the Throne ever been so disagreeable to us, as at such a Juncture, which has furnish'd your Majesty's faithful Subjects in *Britain* with an Opportunity of shewing, by their Actions, a Zeal and Emulation for your Service; whilst all that we have been able to do has been, as soon as we heard of the Rebellion, to enter into an Association in Defence of your Sacred Person and Government, of which we are obliged thus late, to beg your Majesty's gracious Acceptance.

When we last presum'd to address your Majesty, we could not think it possible that the immediate regard your Majesty had shewn to this Island, by confirming to us most beneficial Laws, and such as we had many Years desired in vain, accompany'd with your Majesty's most Gracious Letter, could have failed of establishing such an Agreement amongst us, as would have induced every real Friend to the Protestant Succession, cheerfully to have comply'd with all that your Majesty had required of this Colony, which was so necessary for its own Happiness and Safety.

But it is now with the utmost Concern and Regret, we are obliged to acquaint your Majesty that unhappy Divisions, stir'd up by some
few

few Persons with private Views, disguised under Pretences of Publick Service, and fomented by groundless Aspersions have prevailed, to the Obstruction of what your Majesty has so justly expected from this Island. We comfort our selves with Hopes, your Majesty will not find reason to impute this Miscarriage to us, who have endeavoured to make your Majesty's Gracious Letter and Royal Instructions (which we are humbly of Opinion have been most wisely calculated for the Good and Welfare of your Subjects) the Rule of our Conduct; which however having proved ineffectual, we are under a Necessity of resorting again to your Majesty's Goodness, humbly beseeching your Majesty to take such Measures as your Wisdom shall judge most proper, for the Honour and Support of your Government, and the Security of so valuable, tho defenceless an Island.

That the most obdurate of your Majesty's deluded Subjects, may at length discern and confess the invaluable Blessings the Accession of your Majesty's Illustrious and Royal House has secured to the *British* Empire: That your Majesty's known Clemency may never again be provoked, but that you may long Reign the Delight of all your Subjects, and a Terror to your Enemies, and transmit your Virtues, with your Crown, to his Royal Highness and his Posterity, is the sincere Prayer of

*Your Majesty's most Faithful,
most Obedient, and
most Devoted Subjects.*

TO THE
KING's most Excellent Majesty,

The most humble Address of the
Merchants, and other Inhabitants
of the Town of *Kingston*, in the
Island of *Jamaica*.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

WE your Majesty's most Dutiful
and Loyal Subjects, the Mer-
chants and other Inhabitants
of the Town of *Kingston*, in
the Island of *Jamaica*, humbly presume to
Address your Majesty, to assure You of our
steady Zeal and Loyalty to your Sacred Per-
son and Government. And as we have Ab-
jured the Pretender, and Associated against
him; so we do daily more and more detest
and abhor all Attempts which have been
made in Favour of him, by stirring up an
execrable Rebellion among your Majesty's
Subjects.

We were always firmly of Opinion, that
not only our Religion and Liberties, but the
Trade of *Great-Britain* in all its Branches,
depended upon your Majesty's Establishment
on the Throne. And we had too much rea-
son to fear, when we were treated as *Robbers*
and

and *Pirates* in Trade, by the Enemies of your Majesty's Succession; that not only our Trade, but this your Majesty's Island, was designed as part of the Sacrifice to their pernicious Schemes.

We have endeavoured to show our Gratitude to your Majesty, by choosing such Members to represent Us in the late Assembly, as would effectually comply with what your Majesty was pleased to require by your Gracious Letter. And we humbly assure your Majesty, that we will always choose such as shall endeavour to support your Majesty's Government with Honour, and provide an additional Subsistence for the two Independent Companies, so long as your Majesty shall think fit to continue them; which we think at this Time, so necessary and beneficial to Us.

We humbly hope, your Majesty will be graciously pleas'd to give such Directions, that Measures may be taken for the better Peopling this your Majesty's Island, by an equal and impartial Method, by which no particular Man, or Body of Men, may be oppressed more than others; which had now been our own Case, by the Ruin of this your Majesty's Town, had we not been delivered, upon our Petition, by your Majesty's Council of this Island.

We think our selves obliged on this Occasion, to assure your Majesty of our great Satisfaction in the Justice and Integrity of the Lord *Archibald Hamilton*, our present Governor, who has always encouraged and countenanced every fair Trader, and whose singular

lar Prudence and Moderation in his Government will, we hope, restore Quiet among Us; and when approv'd by your Majesty, put an end to all our Unhappy and Unreasonable Divisions.

That your Majesty may long Reign in Triumph over all your Enemies, and in perfect Love of your Subjects: and his Royal Highness after You, and his Posterity, in perpetual Succession, is the most sincere and hearty Prayer of,

May it please your Majesty,

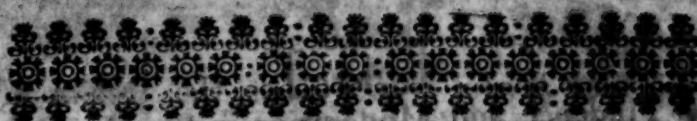
Your Majesty's

most Dutiful and

Loyal Subjects.



THE



THE ASSOCIATION

OF THE

Governour, Council, and principal Inhabitants of the Island of Jamaica.

WHEREAS there had been an horrid and detestable Conspiration, carry'd on by Papiſts, and other wicked and traiterous Persons, againſt his Maſteſty's Royal Perſon and Government, with intent to impoſe on his Maſteſty's Dominions, a Pretender to his Crown, bred up in all the Principles of Popery and Maxim of Tyranny, to the manifeſt Danger, not only of his Maſteſty's Perſon and the Proteſtant Succeſſion in the Illuſtrious Houſe of *Hanover*, but of the whole Proteſtant Intereſt through *Chriſtendom*; which having ſince broke out into open Rebellion in ſeveral Parts of his Maſteſty's Kingdom of *Great-Britain*, if attended with Succeſs, can end in nothing leſs than the total Overthrow of our Religion and Liberties, and in the inevitable Ruin of our Native Country.

We whoſe Names are hereunto ſubſcribed, do heartily, ſincerely, and ſolemnly profeſs, that his Maſteſty King *GEORGE*, is right-ful

ful and lawful KING of the Realm of Great-Britain, and of all other his Majesty's Dominions thereunto belonging. And we do mutually promise and engage to stand by and assist each other, to the utmost of our Power, in the Support of his Majesty's Person and Government, against the Pretender and all his Adherents: And we do hereby further freely and unanimously oblige our selves to unite, associate, and stand by each other, in supporting and defending his Majesty's Title and the Succession of the Crown, against the Pretender, and all other Persons whatsoever, as the same by an Act, intituled, *An Act for the future Limitation of the Crown, and better securing the Rights and Liberties of the Subject*, is and stands limited to the Princess Sophia, Electress and Dutchess Dowager of Hanover, and the Heirs of her Body, being Protestants.
 December the 31st. 1715.

F I N I S.

